



The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN du CANOT

CCM Principles for Engaging and Consulting with FNMI communities

The Canadian Canoe Museum holds in trust over 600 canoes and kayaks for the citizens of Canada and its visitors. Canada's First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) designed, built and used the first canoes and kayaks, and the Museum has an ethical role to play in honouring the cultural histories and stories within our collection.

The following principles form the basis for our approach to engage with and learn from FNMI communities:

1. Honour the intent of international and national statements regarding respecting the rights and culture of Indigenous peoples¹
2. Be guided by the recommendations of the 2015 Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada²
3. Be aware of prior and ongoing FNMI consultations within the Canadian museum sector³ and their recommendations
4. Honour the intent of the two row wampum belt - friendship, peace between peoples and travelling on parallel paths.
5. Foster an understanding of Canadian history through a nation to nations approach (acknowledging there are 615 First Nations, distinct cultural and dialectic communities within Nunavut, and a growing Metis Nation)

¹ Documents include: United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (endorsed by Canada in 2010); Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples (2018); Canadian Archeological Association Statement of Principles for Ethical Conduct Pertaining to Aboriginal People (2018)

² The Executive Summary notes: "museums and archives have interpreted the past in ways that have excluded or marginalized Aboriginal peoples' cultural perspective and historical experience...as history that had been formerly silenced was revealed, it became evident that Canada's museums had only told part of the story." (pg. 303) "There is an urgent need in Canada to develop historically literate citizens who understand why and how the past is relevant to their own lives and the future of the country. Museums have an ethical responsibility to foster national reconciliation, and not simply tell one party's version of the past." (pg. 308)

³ "Turning the Page: Forging New Partnerships Between Museums and First Peoples" (Task Force Report by Assembly of First Nations and Canadian Museums Association 1994) – "the desire and authority of First Peoples to speak for themselves should be recognized and affirmed by Museums...appropriate representatives of First Peoples will be involved as equal partners in any museum exhibition, program or project dealing with Aboriginal heritage, history or culture" (pg. 7). Note: in 2017, CMA established the "Museums and Indigenous Issues Project" and CCM is in communication with CMA about the scope of the project and its Terms of Reference

6. FNMI individuals and communities will be engaged with and invited to share their stories and culture through the CCM's platforms including physical and digital means (permanent gallery, temporary exhibition, artisanal workshops, programs).

CCM recognizes its responsibilities to the source communities and their individuals in sharing and interpreting these offered stories.

7. Collaborate to create an inclusive and accessible research centre where academic and indigenous knowledge keepers are welcomed and where knowledge and cultural practices may be shared.
8. This engagement process will provide opportunities for multiple perspectives, worldviews and voices. The CCM is prepared to provide "space" for controversial topics or perspectives.
9. Maintain relationships with communities during the building of the new museum and after, and continue to find meaningful ways to encourage FNMI communities to engage in, or refresh, their involvement after the Museum opens (for example, the temporary exhibit can be a rotated and updated assuming we have the budget to do so)
10. Consult with subject experts and academics in the field of Indigenous Studies (Trent University, others) as content is developed
11. Develop appropriate policies and guidelines to support these principles, including repatriation

Impact of Principles for Exhibit Design Committee and formation of the Interpretive Plan

- a) Begin the engagement/consultation with the local Indigenous communities, specifically the Williams Treaty nations and also the Metis Nation of Ontario Peterborough chapter, Nogojiwanong Friendship center and communities not officially recognized by the Federal government. Consultation will begin with local communities including Curve Lake FN, Hiawatha FN and Alderville FN.
- b) The identification of other FNMI communities across Canada with which CMM will engage will be informed by the strengths and representation within the museum's collection and expand from there as needed. We will seek out storytellers while also honouring local protocol.
- c) Identify all other FNMI communities with which we have collaborated over

the life of the museum, and apprise them of our developments as appropriate, even if they are not directly consulted

- d) Maintain communications with those communities with whom we have engaged/consulted through the building of the museum, and after its opening