

Indigenous Perspectives Project

Overall Summary

The Fort la Reine Museum is undertaking the initiative to present regional Indigenous histories and worldviews through the Indigenous Perspectives Project. We will incorporate first hand Indigenous perspectives into the Museum experience through digital media, cultural materials and artefacts, guided tours, impactful imagery, and interpretive materials. Other facets of the project include:

- The repatriation of Indigenous cultural materials at the Museum.
- Reintegration of Indigenous histories that were previously silenced or ignored. These histories shall be collected from indigenous authors and scholars, oral history interviews and testimonials from local indigenous community members, and academically recognized sources.
- Establishing this as an off-season long-term project to continually give voice to Indigenous peoples in our community.
- Being flexible with the content that we collect from Indigenous sources - our project may change to make sure that we are being ethical, appropriate, and respectful while encompassing the entirety of our research and testimonials.
- Being mindful as to not victimize Indigenous peoples through a Settler lens, while still recognizing the dark parts of history.
- Exhibition materials shall be edited and approved by local Indigenous representatives to insure ethical and factual standards are met.

The Need

Museums in the 21st century are starting to recognize the negative effects that heritage centres have inflicted upon Indigenous communities by removing their voices from their own histories. By introducing the Indigenous Perspective Project, we hope to rebuild positive relationships with our local Indigenous communities, empower youth, encourage meaningful conversations and tangible commitments to Reconciliation, and reduce racial discrimination.

Objectives/Community Impact

- Build a sense of trust and respect between local Indigenous communities and the Museum.
- Increase multicultural education by showcasing all aspects of Indigenous worldviews and perspectives (both historical and contemporary).
- Reduce discrimination towards Indigenous communities.
- Provide a platform for Indigenous peoples to share their voice.
- Enhance the museum's scope, and sense of relativity in the 21st century.
- Work towards Reconciliation.

Timeline

- October 2020 - January 2021
 - Initial research
 - Reach out to local Indigenous community members to collect histories, consultation on the project, and develop long-term contacts for the project.
 - Continue to edit and perfect the scope of the project
- February - April 2021
 - Collect testimonials through ethical means
 - Document sources
 - Interpret collected oral histories and testimonials to produce a framework for our interpreted materials.
 - Develop a pragmatic plan for how the project will be presented (how will we include the testimonials - developing videos, imagery, written, collecting material artifacts).
 - Initial exhibition designing.
- May - August 2021
 - Some incorporation of exhibition materials into the Museum
- September - December 2021 (and Ongoing)
 - Continuation of research and exhibition development
 - Ongoing research, consultation, and exhibition development required to reflect a changing world.