



**Communiqué  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CMA initiates working group to address Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #67**

**Ottawa, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018** — At the annual Canadian Museums Association (CMA) conference in Vancouver, fifteen representatives of Canada's museums and indigenous cultural institutes met to discuss a path forward to guide the CMA in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Action #67, which states:

*We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to make recommendations.*

The work of this group builds upon the landmark CMA-AFN Task Force which ran from 1988 to 1992. The goal is to research and review all aspects of museum work — from reconciliation, repatriation, representation, voice, artists' rights, ways of knowing, participation, to funding, staffing, governance, and more — in an effort to support museums and cultural centres in seeking positive change and growth with respect to indigenous perspectives and practices.

CMA shared several updates on relevant recent work, including: an initial literature review led by Jameson C. Brant, Program Coordinator for the Canadian Museum of History's RBC Aboriginal Training Program in Museum Practices, and conducted by students at the University of Toronto and other institutions; the CMA's current work on a reflections paper around museums and indigenous topics and practices; and, draft terms of reference and a proposed work plan for the initiative. Over the coming months, CMA will establish a secretariat dedicated to delivering on the project, based on direction provided by the group.

The group will also consider Bill C-391, a private member's bill tabled in the House of Commons on **February 1, 2018**, which calls for a national strategy for the repatriation of aboriginal cultural property: [parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-391/first-reading](http://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-391/first-reading)

Two related activities also took place at the CMA conference:

- First, at the CMA's awards ceremony, Curtis Campbell, Vice President, RBC Aboriginal Markets and Public Sector/Not-For-Profit, announced the launch of a new indigenous mentorship program, supported by Royal Bank of Canada.
- Second, at the Annual General Meeting CMA members unanimously passed a resolution on diversity and inclusion which includes acknowledgement of the unjust treatment of indigenous communities. All members are encouraged to embrace this statement and policy position, available here: [museums.ca/site/inclusion](http://museums.ca/site/inclusion)

The CMA would like to acknowledge the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the Canadian Museum of History and Jameson C. Brant, Royal Bank of Canada, and a private donor.

### **Museums Indigenous Council Members (as of April 2018)**

- **Grant Anderson**, Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations, Winnipeg MB
- **Stephen Augustine**, Indigenous Affairs & Unama'ki College, Cape Breton University, Sydney NS
- **Morgan Baillargeon**, Canadian Museum of History (retired), Tecumseh ON
- **Catherine Bell**, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB
- **Jean-Marc Blais**, representing national museums, Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau QC
- **Stephen Borys**, Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg MB
- **Nika Collison**, Haida Gwaii Museum, Skidegate BC
- **Pam Gross**, Kitikmeot Heritage Society, Cambridge Bay NU
- **Jane Fullerton**, New Brunswick Museum (retired), CMA Board, Saint John NB
- **John McAvity**, CMA, Ottawa ON
- **Sharon McLeod**, University College of the North, The Pas MB
- **Laureat Maureau**, Musée Shaputuan, Sept-Îles QC
- **Sarah Pash**, Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, CMA Board, Oujé-Bougoumou, QC
- **Marie-Paule Robitaille**, Musée de la civilisation (retired), Québec QC
- **Anthony Shelton**, UBC Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver BC

### **Additional resources:**

- [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)
- [CMA/AFN Task Force Report on Museums and First Peoples](#) (1992)

### **About the CMA:**

The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) is the national organization for the advancement of Canada's museum community. The CMA works for the recognition, growth and stability of the sector. Canada's 2,600 museums and related institutions preserve our collective memory, shape our national identity and promote tolerance and understanding. The CMA secretariat is located on the traditional lands of the Algonquin peoples. CMA is grateful for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory in mutual respect and gratitude. Learn more at [museums.ca](http://museums.ca).

### **For more information:**

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