

Comments regarding Kairos Blanket Exercise

Pre-Conference Workshop

September 21, 2017

Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada, *Winnipeg*

I am writing to you in regards to the experience of the Kairos Blanket Exercise that was presented to participants for the Association of Manitoba Museums as a pre-conference workshop. I believe I was the only independent participating!

My knowledge of Indigenous issues in this province were weak at best. Through the news I would hear of some progress in reconciliation and healing but really had no awareness of the ongoing trials and tribulations throughout our Manitoba/Canadian history that the indigenous people have endured.

The Kairos Blanket Exercise was very educational regarding our indigenous history as well as very impactful with the use of visual components and dolls. Both you (Adele Ledoux) and Louise (Landygo) did an excellent job of taking the Canadian structure and making it relevant to Manitoba. I also admired the time taken to change history where required due to where you were teaching.

My hope is that this program goes beyond school staff, to the children and into mainstream society. I feel this program should be promoted not only to special groups but to the general public at large. This experience would increase compassion and empathy between peoples in our country; educate, heal, and hopefully create an increase of love for one another. This is how reconciliation grows.

I commend your energies and initiative in working with this program throughout Manitoba.

Sincerely,
Brenda Hevenor

This was my first time experiencing the Kairos Blanket Exercise. I was very impressed that this version of the exercise focused on a map of Manitoba and that the roles played by participants were Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene, Inuit... - all of Manitoba's Indigenous nations. It was a powerful method of story telling which created emotional and physical connections to the hidden history and systematic oppression of Indigenous people in Manitoba. It helped to connect the dots of a complicated history and has forever changed my perspective.

And if you ever get the chance to do it – do it with version. It's so much more impactful when it's in your own backyard.

Participant