Reconciliation and Resurgence

Heritage Practice in Post-TRC Edmonton

We are here today with open hearts and open minds to help individuals and organizations struggling to find a way forward through the TRC's Calls to Action pertaining to museums, archives and the broader heritage sector.

Don't be afraid to ask questions... take away knowledge

Through this Symposium we encourage people to consider how they research, interpret and present Edmonton's heritage in the Post TRC era.

Reflection, critical + new

How does this information impact you and your everyday life?

How are you playing in Treaty & Territory?

We aim to connect Indigenous Heritage Practitioners to non-Indigenous practitioners to provide building relationships and increasing investments into Indigenous community organizations and representation throughout heritage organizations and practices.

We respectfully acknowledge the place in which we are gathered here today known to us now as Amiskwaciwâskahikan, Beaver Hills House – the traditional land of Treaty 6 Territory and Region 4 of the Métis Region of Alberta. This place is a traditional meeting ground, gathering place and travelling route of the Nehiyawak (Cree), Nitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dene and Nakoda Sioux.

We acknowledge and value all the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit, whose footsteps have marked these lands for Centuries before us, and we give thanks to **mother earth** for Sustaining us.

We respect the histories, languages and cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit, whose presence continues to enrich our Storied heritage.

Starting now, we all have an opportunity to show leadership, courage and conviction in helping heal the wounds of the past as we make a path towards a more just, more fair and loving country. - Justice Murray Sinclair

RETHINKING TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: CREATING MEANINGFUL STATEMENTS

Treaties need to be respected and upheld. We have need to move away from using treaties as treaty partners.

How are we going to do this? We have awareness – we need MOTIVATION to take us to this Treaty relationship...

and use our experiences to move us towards decolonization. MEANINGFUL

Territorial acknowledgements are not just a "tick box" exercise. They should be commitments to

MOTIVATE people to ACTION. PUBLIC NARRATIVE

AHCAHK ISKOTÊW

Indigenous Place Name: "ah-ca-hak" Ahk-ah-ko-mik

KIHCIY ASKIY Sacred Earth

River Crossing

ENOCH CREE FIRST NATION

RECONCILING the PAST for the FUTURE - Dr. KISHA SUPERNANT

WEAVING the Kinship

We need to shift approaches to heritage practice:

- Consultation
- Participation
- Collaboration
- Community oriented
- Community driven

INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

"It's not the bead that holds the spirit, it's the pattern that holds the spirit."

What gives non-Indigenous people the right to be stewards of Indigenous past, land heritage?

HERITAGE MATTERS...

- There are 94 Calls to Action (not recommendations) and many relate to heritage.
- We have to ten this truth before we can move forward in a good way...

CHALLENGES IN HERITAGE PRACTICE:

Interpretation...

- Who tells the story?
- What history is told?

I love my Mother Earth
I bless my Mother Earth
& I will take care of Her
I love my Mother Earth

URBAN INDIGENEITY and REPRESENTATION - JUDY HALF

- History was a tool to subjugate First Nation Peoples.
- Good faith and heritage resource management are long overdue in heritage analysis in Alberta.
- What has been done so far?
- How do we repatriate?
- Are we still assimilated?
- How have our identities been shaped and interpreted in Western Canada?

"We have never been allowed to tell our stories."

- Collective memory needs to be re-activated. We have a responsibility to carry on these narratives to provide interpretation to make life more meaningful for Indigenous peoples.

WAHKOTOWIN

- We need to think of artifacts as relations, not objects.
- How can we re-imagine the 'journey of this relation?

KEEYOUKAWIN

- Visiting with my relative...

MILO PIMATISIWIN

"Truth telling is what sets us free as people."

-ELDER ROXANN SUNWALKER ROAN

"Allyship is about courage."

The question of Ownership is a really important one.

This is a conversation that needs to continue.

Being an ally is not meant to be Comfortable.

We need to be participants, non just leaders of the process of heritage planning.

Relationships are at the heart of the work we are doing here together.

There are historical wrongs to correct.

What are Treaties?

Bill One and the Buffalo declaration are not consistent with reconciliation.

If you don't respect the land there will be consequences.

This Symposium is timely and needed.

Learn as much as you can.

Land Acknowledgement to respect.

We need to do more truth telling and not be afraid to do so.

The earth is Sick right now.

We have much to learn, a long way to go.

We need a deeper level of listening to build a brighter tomorrow.

We need to build relationships.

Let our weapons stones be our pens, not obstacles in moving forward.

We're all been doing our best, but our best isn't good enough. We need to do better.

When we are trying to accomplish non-Indigenous goals we only need a silver minority.

But when we try to achieve Indigenous goals we need a consensus.

Implementation of UNDRIP...

BC has already passed legislation. Neither the Territories or Provinces have gone this.

Please don't ask us to give up ownership otherwise we will never build partnerships.

Heritage was the way to bring everyone together. History tells you where you are, its history.

Oral tradition and knowledge carries the same weight as written.

There is always a quality to our way of doing things.

We need to move away from the Western concept of validity.

We need to do more, for our children, our grandchildren & those not yet born - the truth has to come out.

"OUR LAND IS OUR LIFE"

GRAPHIC RECORDING BY: Joleyne

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