

David T. Barnard, President and Vice Chancellor
TD Bank Group Gift Announcement
May 13, 2015 11:00 a.m.
Archives and Special Collections, Elizabeth Dafoe Library

Other speakers:

- Emcee **Ms. Deborah Young**, Executive Lead, Indigenous Achievement. She will introduce you.
 - **Mr. Frank McKenna**, TD Deputy Chair
 - **Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, NCTR Governing Circle and inter-generational survivor
 - **Mr. Ry Moran**, Director, NCTR
 - **Mr. Paul Soubry**, Front and Centre Campaign Chair
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Suggested Speaking Notes:

- Good morning.
- Thank Justina for the honour song.
- We are here to celebrate a transformational contribution to our country's first and only research centre dedicated to studying the impact of the Canadian Residential School System.
- I was reminded of the significance of this last night at our Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration of Excellence.
- Those of you who joined us heard the story of Marion Meadmore, the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award and a residential school survivor.

- She overcame the pain and negativity of that experience by focusing her attention on education as a means to transform her world in a positive way.
- After graduating from Law at the University of Manitoba in 1977, she became the first Indigenous woman in Canada to be called to the bar.
- She went on to create organizations that build community, equality and independence for Indigenous people across the country – leaving a tremendous legacy for all of us. Her story represents one of the many reasons why UM is truly grateful to be home to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Through the bravery of Survivors like her sharing their stories and working with community partners, this centre can be a place of healing and learning.
- The Centre will provide the opportunity to interact with the oral and documented history of Residential Schools.
- And we are committed to ensuring that the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is used by as many people as possible.

- We want teachers to share these stories with their students, and parents to share them with their children.
- We want scholars from our University, our province, our country and around the world to search these records for the profound truths they contain.
- Most of all, we want this unique national archive to be accessible to Survivors and their families, so they can connect with the documents, histories and stories that were kept locked away for so long.
- And the generous gift we are celebrating today is helping to make that possible.
- We should also acknowledge that this is not the first time TD Bank Group has invested in Indigenous Achievement at UM.
- In 2009, TD donated \$50,000 to support a study of the challenges facing Indigenous learners at UM, and to consider ways to improve and develop university-based programs.
- The resulting report by Dr. Kiera Ladner was the catalyst for great change, including the hiring of an Executive Lead for Indigenous Achievement – our emcee today, Ms. Deborah Young.

- In fact, I think it's fair to say that this initial investment made six years ago set things in motion to get us where we are today.
- Now, please join me in welcoming the Deputy Chair of TD Bank Group, former Premier of New Brunswick, and former Canadian Ambassador to the United States: the Honourable Mr. Frank McKenna.