

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA POLICY

Policy:	National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Governance Policy
Effective Date:	June 22, 2021
Revised Date:	
Review Date:	June 22, 2031
Approving Body:	Board of Governors
Authority:	<i>The University of Manitoba Act, Section 16(1)(h)</i>
Responsible Executive Officer:	Vice-President (Indigenous)
Delegate:	
Contact:	Executive Director, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
Application:	All Staff, Students and Faculty

Part I Reason for Policy

- 1.1 To provide greater clarity about the governance of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and to fulfill commitments in the Administrative Agreement between the University of Manitoba and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada through which the NCTR was founded.
- 1.2 To support the NCTR in being responsive and accountable to the Indigenous peoples whose rights it promotes and to the Residential School Survivors whose truths it preserves.
- 1.3 To ensure that the perspectives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and in particular the voices of Residential School Survivors, are always reflected in the strategies and priorities of the NCTR.
- 1.4 To enable the NCTR to fulfill its responsibilities in a manner consistent with the laws, protocols, traditions, and knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples.
- 1.5 To support the NCTR in its unique national and international role in promoting truth and reconciliation, in fulfillment of Canada's obligations, as set out internationally

by the Joint-Orentlicher Principles, to preserve the record of human rights violations and guarantee non-recurrence of these violations.

- 1.6 To fulfill the University's obligation and commitment to respect human rights and promote their fullest realization, including the human rights of Indigenous peoples.
- 1.7 To uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UN Declaration"), adopted by the UN General Assembly as an expression of the "minimum standards" necessary to protect and fulfill the human rights of Indigenous peoples.
- 1.8 To create a new template of partnership and collaboration consistent with the UN Declaration's affirmation of the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples, including the right of Indigenous peoples to govern their own cultural institutions and to make their own decisions about the preservation and transmission of their history, knowledge systems, and historical and cultural property.
- 1.9 To honour the Principles of Reconciliation set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which identify the UN Declaration as "the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of society."
- 1.10 To realize the commitment made in the University's 2011 Statement of Apology and Reconciliation to Residential School Survivors to listen to, acknowledge and affirm Indigenous voices within the fabric of the university.
- 1.11 To put into action the University's strategic priority to promote research and education on the self-determination of Indigenous peoples.
- 1.12 To give life to the University's commitment to the Winnipeg Accord which recognizes that reconciliation requires "political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency."
- 1.13 To acknowledge and help dismantle barriers to Indigenous leadership within the University itself, as set out in the 2019 Indigenous Senior Leadership Review.

Part II Policy Content

- 2.1 The following terms have the following defined meanings for the purpose of this Procedure:
 - (a) **Administrative Agreement:** The 2013 agreement between the University of Manitoba and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada setting out details concerning the administration and operation of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

- (b) **Governing Circle:** The shared governance body established under by the Administrative Agreement, further details of which are set out in this policy and the procedure.
 - (c) **Intergenerational Survivors:** All family and descendants of Survivors.
 - (d) **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR):** The center established through the Administrative Agreement and Trust Deed entered into by the University of Manitoba and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
 - (e) **Partner:** An educational institution, research centre, archive, Indigenous organization, or other interested group or entity engaged as a Partner in pursuit of the NCTR's mandate, pursuant to an agreement with the University.
 - (f) **Survivors:** Any and all former students of the Indian Residential School system regardless of the period or location of their attendance.
 - (g) **Survivors Circle:** An advisory body to the Governing Circle, established by the Governing Circle, and composed of Survivors and/or Inter-Generational Survivors.
 - (h) **Trust Deed:** The 2013 agreement between the University of Manitoba and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada establishing conditions under which the University would act as trustee for testimony, records and other property of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- 2.2 The University of Manitoba recognizes that the NCTR has a unique role in Canada that cannot be appropriately defined as either an academic or research centre at the University of Manitoba.
- 2.3 The University affirms that the NCTR works to fulfill the following mandate, which has national and international dimensions:
- (a) To be a responsible and accountable steward for the stories, photos, and memories entrusted to the NCTR by the Survivors of Residential Schools, to honour their truths, and ensure that they can never again be forgotten or ignored;
 - (b) To continue the research work begun by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and in this way contribute to the continuing healing of First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation and the country as a whole; and
 - a) To build a foundation for reconciliation by promoting public education and understanding of the Residential Schools and how they are part of a larger history of violent assaults on the distinct cultures and identities of First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation.

- 2.4 In all its operations, the NCTR will embody the following principles of action, responsibility and accountability, as developed by its Governing Circle and Survivors Circle:
- (a) To respect and uphold the teachings embodied in its logo: the single fire that represents the Seven Sacred Teachings of respect, honesty, courage, love, humility, wisdom and truth; the two birds that represent our spirits being set free when our truth is told; the three flames that represent our responsibility to past, present and future generations; and the circle that represents our duty to protect the fire while always welcoming people to join;
 - (b) To act in accordance with the NCTR's spirit name, which is One Feather – Bizhig Miigwan – which expresses that everything is connected, and that Survivors deserve the same respect as an eagle feather;
 - (c) To honour, acknowledge, and remember Residential School Survivors and their legacy in all that the NCTR does;
 - (d) To remember and honour the children who never returned home;
 - (e) To uphold the NCTR's duty to tell the truth of Canada's history of cultural genocide;
 - (f) To promote the vision of reconciliation articulated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; and
 - (g) To respect, uphold and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples affirmed in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- 2.5 The University supports a shared governance model for the NCTR in which decisions and advice about the strategy, policies, and priorities of the NCTR will be made or provided by the NCTR Governing Circle in accordance with this policy, the procedures and the by-laws adopted by the Governing Circle.
- 2.6 As academic host for the NCTR, and one of its founding partners, the University has a unique stewardship role, with financial and legal responsibilities in respect to the NCTR.
- 2.7 The University participates in the shared governance of the NCTR primarily through the University's representation as a full member of the Governing Circle and through the active participation of its representatives in all functions of the Governing Circle.
- 2.8 Under the terms of the Trust Deed and the Administrative Agreement, the NCTR is expected to follow all administrative and operations policies of the University.

- 2.9 It is expected that the Governing Circle of the NCTR will adopt additional policies specific to the NCTR's mandate and responsibilities.
- 2.10 In the event that the Governing Circle identifies any University policy as being inconsistent with the rights of Indigenous peoples as set out in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, or as a barrier to the NCTR's fulfillment of its mandate, the University will work with the Governing Circle to reconcile such differences.
- 2.11 To the fullest extent possible, the University will seek the advice of the Governing Circle concerning any decisions being contemplated within the University governance that have potential implications for the operations of the NCTR.
- 2.12 In the event of disagreement concerning the administration of the NCTR, the University and the Governing Circle will establish a mutually agreed upon process to resolve the matter, with reference to any conflict resolution and mediation processes adopted by the Governing Circle.

Part III Accountability

- 3.1 The Office of Legal Counsel is responsible for advising the Vice-President (Indigenous) that a formal review of this Policy is required.
- 3.2 The Vice-President (Indigenous) is responsible for the implementation, administration and review of this Policy.
- 3.3 All staff, students and faculty is/are responsible for complying with this Policy.

Part IV Authority to Approve Procedures

- 4.1 The Vice-President (Indigenous) may approve Procedures, if applicable, which are secondary to and comply with this Policy.

Part V Review

- 5.1 Governing Document reviews shall be conducted every ten (10) years. The next scheduled review date for this Policy is June 22, 2031.
- 5.2 In the interim, this Policy may be revised or repealed if:
- (a) the Vice-President (Indigenous) or the Approving Body deems it necessary or desirable to do so;

- (b) the Policy is no longer legislatively or statutorily compliant; and/or
 - (c) the Policy is now in conflict with another Governing Document.
- 5.3 If this Policy is revised or repealed all Secondary Documents, if applicable, shall be reviewed as soon as possible in order that they:
- (a) comply with the revised Policy; or
 - (b) are in turn repealed.

Part VI Effect on Previous Statements

- 6.1 This Policy supersedes all of the following:
- (a) all previous Board of Governors/Senate Governing Documents on the subject matter contained herein; and
 - (b) all previous Administration Governing Documents on the subject matter contained herein.

Part VII Cross References

- 7.1 This Policy should be cross referenced to the following relevant Governing Documents, legislation and/or forms:
- (a) *Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Administrative Agreement;*
 - (b) *Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Trust Agreement;*
 - (c) *The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Act, C.C.S.M. c. N20, [assented June 30, 2015];*
 - (d) *University of Manitoba NCTR Governance Procedure.*