

Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”)

BETWEEN

Royal BC Museum and Archives (“RBCM”)

AND

The Sisters of St. Ann (“SSA”)

(together, the “Participants”)

A. Purpose and Scope

a) This MOU serves to:

- a. Help to establish a transparent framework and process for expedited/immediate review of SSA Indian Residential School <sup>1</sup> records, and any other SSA records which contain information about SSA involvement at Indian Residential Schools (associated records);
- b. Facilitate access to the SSA archives by an RBCM archivist and a neutral third party to audit Indian Residential School and associated records;
- c. Place an emphasis on making Indian Residential School and associated records accessible to Indigenous communities a priority;
- d. Facilitate discussion between SSA and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and the UBC Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (IRSHDC), organizations that will work to ensure our processes incorporate the perspectives of Indigenous communities;
- e. Facilitate a third party review of SSA Archives Indian Residential School and associated records to promote transparency;
- f. Work toward an accelerated transfer of the SSA Archives to the RBCM concluding no later than the relocation to the Collection and Research Building (CRB); and
- g. Collaborate with IRSHDC and partners to establish a platform on which the Residential School and associated records are in an accessible, digital format

b) To achieve these ends, the specific deliverables are:

- SSA Archivist to provide RBCM a list of series, fonds, and finding aids for the SSA Archives, with an emphasis on the four Indian Residential Schools at which the Sisters of St. Ann served;
- SSA Archivist to provide access to an RBCM archivist and a neutral third party to SSA Archives records, in particular Indian Residential School records and associated records;
- RBCM to work with SSA to make the finding aids and inventory publicly accessible;
- RBCM to facilitate introductions for SSA to NCTR and IRSHDC;
- RBCM to connect with IRSHDC about a neutral third party to audit SSA Archives in respect to Indian Residential School and associated records;

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<sup>1</sup> The term Indian Residential School is the formal descriptor as used by the federal government. Although outdated, we have chosen to retain Indian to differentiate schools intended for Indigenous children from other boarding or residential schools operated by the Sisters of St Ann.

- IRSHDC and RBCM seek endorsement of First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) for this process; and
- SSA and RBCM to work together to create a new agreement outlining the transition process with milestones for transferring the SSA Archives to RBCM to occur no later than the opening of a new Collection and Research Building.

**B. Roles and Responsibilities**

The Participants agree to:

- Adhere to all applicable legislation and policies of the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and to applicable policies and procedures of the RBCM and of SSA.
- Undertake joint initiatives in the spirit of and according to the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the United Nations Joint-Orentlicher Principles and the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- Work together in a manner of mutual trust, respect and transparency.

**c. Timeframe**

- This MOU will take effect as of July 1, 2021 and will remain in effect until the work is complete, after which it shall expire unless renewed by written agreement of the Participants.
- A Participant may terminate this MOU by giving 90 days' written notice to the other Participant.
- The Participants may amend or extend this MOU only by written agreement.

**d. Communications**

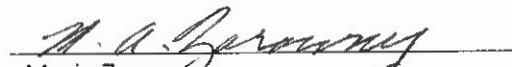
All communications between the Participants required under this MOU or in respect of any subsequent written agreements made pursuant to this MOU are to be addressed to the Participant Representatives detailed below.



Daniel Muzyka  
A/CEO, Royal BC Museum

6/24/2021

Date



Marie Zarowny  
President, The Sisters of St. Ann

Joseph Haines SSA Canonical Leader  
Jude Morin SSA Canonical Leader

June 21, 2021

Date