



Reparative Description for Truth and Reconciliation

Devil is in the Dietz-tails

2025 CRKN
Virtual Conference



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Land Acknowledgement

We would like to thank you for inviting us from the Treaty Six Territory, home of the nehiyaw (Cree), Nakota, Dakota, Saulteaux, Nakawē and homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Overview

Context and situating ourselves in relation to the work

About us without us

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Finders not Keepers

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A work in progress

Our Legacy Project

The Lebret Industrial School Photo Albums

UNDRIP

United Nations
Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous
Peoples Act

TRC

Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission Report
+ 94 Calls to Action

TRC-TF

Steering Community
on Canada's Archives
Reconciliation
Framework

PNAAM

Protocols for Native
American Archival
Materials

Context

Situating Ourselves
In Relation to the Work

OCAP

Ownership, Control,
Access, Possession

CARE

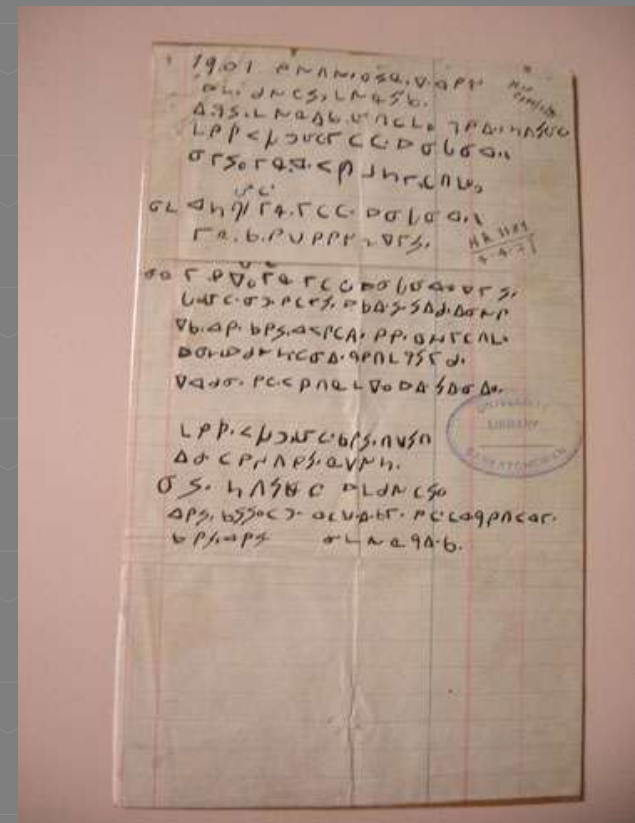
Collective Benefit,
Authority to Control,
Responsibility, Ethics

HISTORY

DATA
PRINCIPLES

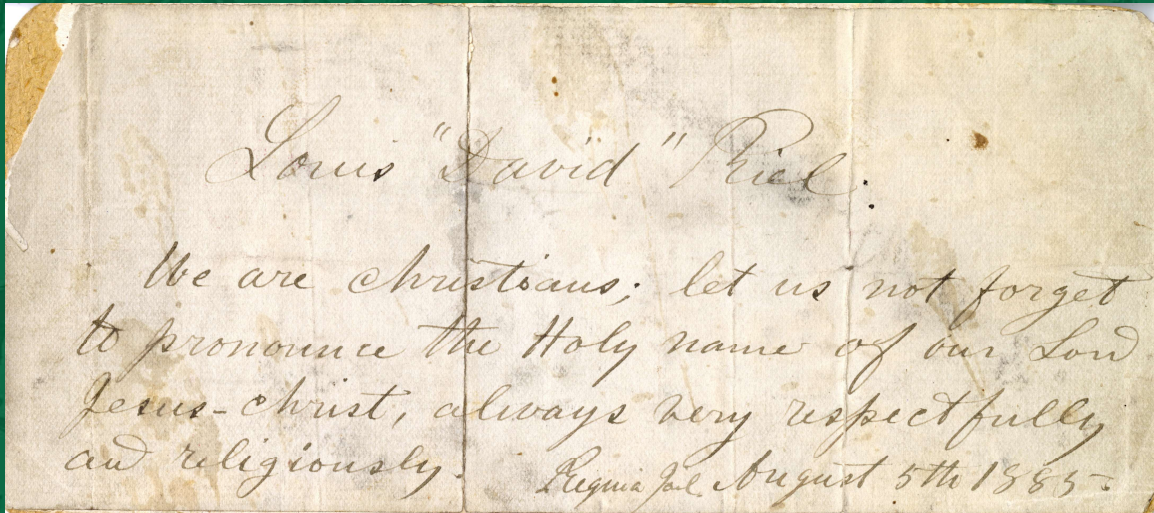
About us, Without us

- Much of the archival holding contains items about Indigenous People by Non-Indigenous People.
- This problem has been highlighted in the last few decades.
- The question remains, what do we do with items of research done prior to ethics boards and Indigenous Data Sovereignty that involve Indigenous People?



Morton, A. S. (1927, April 4). [The Will of Xavier Batoche in Cree syllabics]. Morton Manuscript Collection. (MSSC 550/2/3.4). University of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections, Saskatoon, SK.

What we have found



Morton, A. S. (1885, August 5). [Louis Riel]. Morton Manuscript Collection. (MSSC 550/2/3.5). University of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections, Saskatoon, SK.

- Pictured left is a note from Louis Riel that was found in the Morton Manuscript Collection. At the time of collection Riel was not regarded the same as he is now.
- These important cultural items require different handling. Some cultural items require destruction, such as ceremonies that were photographed.
- We have also located a warbonnet, the will of Francois Xavier Letendre dit Batoche, and sensitive materials about residential schools, the 60s scoop, etc.



Diefenbaker, John G. (1984). [Unprocessed Material Shelved at the National Archives of Canada]. John G. Diefenbaker Fonds. (XVII. Photographs and Slides Series). University of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections, Saskatoon, SK.

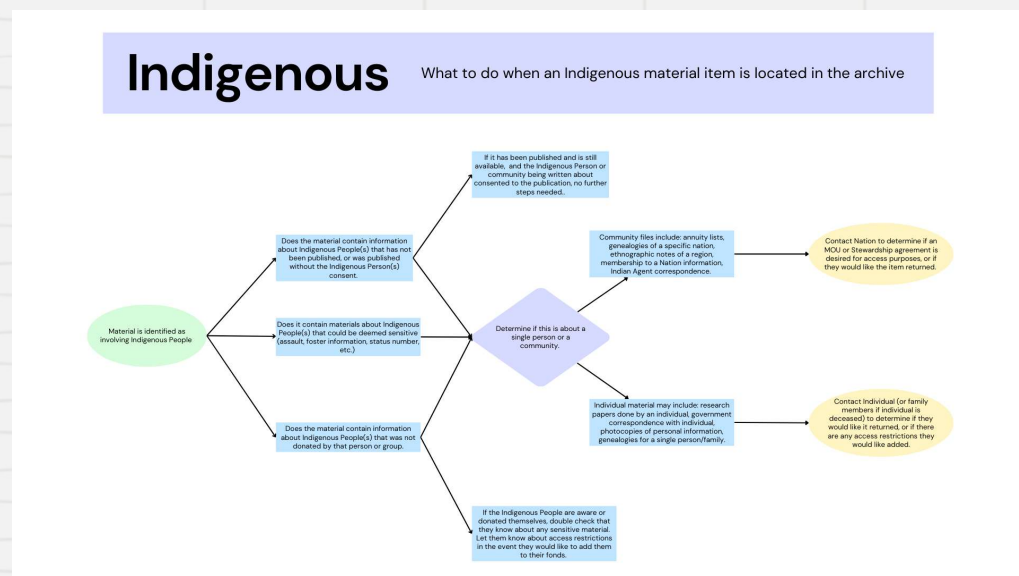
Finders Not Keepers

In the Dietz Fonds we have located over 371 files that need some level of community or personal engagement. Previously only 9 files were restricted.

Communities and people are now being notified that these exist.

Workflow for Indigenous Materials

- As there is a lack of Indigenous People in the profession Sadie created a workflow for non-Indigenous staff to be empowered to make decisions on items coming into the archives.
- Items in archives already can also be looked at with this workflow to identify fonds and sous fonds that need closer inspection.



A Work In Progress

- We are still finding Indigenous content online that requires reparative work.
- Reparative work is not limited to naming and correcting descriptions.
- Reparative work includes giving agency back to individuals, communities, and groups.
- The postcard collection at the University of Saskatchewan is one of the places we have found items that need to be restricted for further engagement and discussion.



Postcard views of Indigenous peoples

A selection of digitized postcards depicting Indigenous people and communities. This project is drawn from the large collection of early western Canadian postcards held by University Archives and Special Collections.

Most of the cards in this collection were produced in the first two decades of the 20th century. The collection includes posed studio portraits as well as depictions of camps, powwows, parades, totem poles, and residential schools. The original postcards may be viewed in the University Archives and Special Collections reading room. The main titles are reproduced from the text used on the original cards.

The original captions printed on the postcards have been transcribed in this project and include racist and offensive language. Archives retain this information as evidence of historical context and to document the language used by those in power. If you would like to access this collection without having to navigate the harmful language in the object descriptions, please [contact UASC](#) and we will be happy to assist you.

The site was last updated in 2001 and it was archived in 2020. It is not being updated and is not formatted for mobile browsers.

[Postcard views of Indigenous peoples](#) 

Our Legacy



History

Legacy Metadata

Reparative
Description

Lebret Indian Residential School Photo Albums



History

**Community
Engagement**

**Funding &
Future
Planning**

References:

- Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions*.
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/UNDRIPManualForNHRIs.pdf>
- Carroll, S, et al. 2020. The CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance. *Data Science Journal*, 19: XX, pp. 1–12. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/dsj-2020-042>
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- First Archivists Circle. (2007). *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials*. <https://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/PrintProtocols.pdf>
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- Morton, A. S. (1927, April 4). [The Will of Xavier Batoche in Cree syllabics]. Morton Manuscript Collection. (MSSC 550/2/3.4). University of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections, Saskatoon, SK.
- Morton, A. S. (1885, August 5). [Louis Riel]. Morton Manuscript Collection. (MSSC 550/2/3.5). University of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections, Saskatoon, SK.
- The Steering Committee on Canada's Archives. (2022). *Reconciliation Framework: The Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce*. https://archives2026.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/reconciliationframeworkreport_en.pdf
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*.
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Kinanâskomitin
Thank you
