UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION 13-9
Innovation Fund

Notice of Intent

1. Completed NOIs must be submitted by the Associate Dean (Research)/Research Liaison Officer of the "Lead" Unit to the Office of Research Services to: Birtukan.Gebretsadik@umanitoba.ca by May 15, 2018.

Proposed name of project: **NCTR Digital Information Architecture**	Estimated Total Project Costs: $7,000,000.00	
Designated Project Leader/Faculty/Dept: **Raymond Frogner, University of Manitoba** **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.** **List Principal Users/Faculty/Dept:**	CV:	X
1. Ian Mosby, University of Guelph, Geography	CV:	X
2. Cary Miller, University of Manitoba, Native Studies	CV:	X
3. Mark Smith, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy	CV:	X
4. Warren Cariou, University of Manitoba, English	CV:	X
5. Jonathan Dewar, Carleton University, Indigenous and Cdn Studies	CV:	X
6. Andrea Walsh, University of Victoria, Anthropology	CV:	X
'Lead' Unit ADR/RLO: **Name: Raymond Frogner**		

Briefly describe (max 2 page, 12 pt. font size, 2 cm margins):

- The proposed research and how it is world-class, innovative and demonstrates clear benefits to Canada.
- The infrastructure and how it will enhance the University's existing research capacity.
- The excellence of the team, including expertise and existing collaborations necessary to conduct the proposed research.
- Plans to secure matching funds and the potential funding sources for the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Digital Information Architecture
Notice of Intent –Canada Foundation for Innovation

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) observed, "genuine reconciliation will not be possible until the broad legacy of the schools is both understood and addressed." To do this, the NCTR must construct a *Digital Information Architecture.* The Canada Foundation for Innovation Grant offers the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation a critically important opportunity to:

> A) Construct the NCTR archive digital architecture to ensure the sacred histories and documents collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are preserved and accessible for the benefit of all Canadians;

> B) Provide database structures that facilitate open access, use, and enrichment by Indigenous communities to support responses to the TRC's Calls to Action;

> C) Ready the collection for researchers with a particular focus on linking to other data collections to enable long-term longitudinal studies, disambiguation of individual identities within the collection, and de-identification of individual names. This enhanced capacity supports vital national research projects such as the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials registry.

The collection housed at the National Centre is without precedent. The NCTR's 5,000,000 documents illustrate the complex operation of the residential school system. The end of the TRC in 2015 also marked a starting point. Survivors' stories and the TRC's collection of documents revealed new narratives in Canadian history and have also exposed further questions about the history of the schools. In many respects the research on the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada has merely started.

The NCTR records concern lives of Survivors and intergenerational survivors, police investigations, the health of students before, during and after their time at residential school, and interactions between students and a wide variety of state and church representatives. The records detail the systemic deconstruction of Indigenous communities through the forced assimilation policies of the Canadian state. To foster dialogue on these issues, the NCTR will innovate on cultural heritage policy, collaborative models of Indigenous research management, and new research leveraging Indigenous knowledge paradigms.

The NCTR will serve as a leading example across the globe to develop a centre of memory and culture that empowers local Indigenous communities and respectfully acknowledges Indigenous rights and identities. Currently there are twelve institutes and centers at the University of Manitoba explicitly studying questions of Indigenous rights and identity. This initiative continues to establish the University as a national centre for Indigenous scholarship. In partnership with the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture, the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and the First Nations Information Governance Centre this project will foster sustainable and innovative links between the digital archive, stories, and community narratives.

Research team

Partnership will include an internationally-recognized group of individuals dedicated to areas of Indigenous community research, oral histories, histories of the residential school system and its legacies, experts in archival theory, digital technology, film and Indigenous information governance. Representing a broad network of additional communities and researchers, our research team has been involved in exceptional research across Canada and internationally. The Digital Architecture of the NCTR will facilitate collaborations across this team in diverse faculties and institutions. Ultimately this digital architecture is the foundation for collaboration on an international scale. Our research team includes: Dr. Andrea Walsh, University of Victoria; Dr. Jonathan Dewar, First Nations Information Governance Centre; Dr. Warren Cariou, Center for Creative Writing and Oral Culture University of Manitoba; Dr. Cary Miller, Head, Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba; Mike Smith, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy; Dr. Ian Mosby, University of Toronto/University of Guelph; Raymond Frogner, NCTR; Ry Moran, NCTR; Dr. Tricia Logan, NCTR.

Supplemental Funding

Grant work will be supplemented by matching funds and in-kind contributions from the Government of Canada. The Missing Children and Unmarked Grave Sites project is the most significant research supplementing the Digital Information Architecture Project. This project represents world class technology development for a profound social issue of institutional and national priority. The vital elements of this project recommend it for ongoing federal support beyond the $500,000 awarded to the NCTR in 2018. This supplemental funding will develop the GIS strategy for unmarked grave sites, and a participatory database design to capture and make available the names of missing residential school children. These innovative technological solutions will continue to benefit from Federal funding and form vital components of the Digital Information Architecture.

Technology Partners
The NCTR will collaborate with the National Film Board (NFB) to preserve and make available its AV Survivor statement files. The NFB will use their in house AV editing techniques to create a standardized preservation format based on current guidelines and best practices. This manner of preservation is designed to meet the ISO standard for a Trusted Digital Repository (TDR). The NCTR will retain the option of adding technical, administrative and descriptive metadata to the files following their conversion. Properly preserved, the NCTR can confidently work on innovative methods to index and make available the AV files. This innovative solution privileges Survivors' stories in the Residential School narrative in addition to preserving the Survivors' testimonies. It represents global leadership in the investigation of transitional justice and new approaches to managing Indigenous resources promoting reconciliation in a colonial jurisdiction.