

WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE DONOR NEWS

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We want to thank our
supporters for their generous
contributions on GivingTuesday

Remembering 1924

Hear from our Executive Director,
Heather George, as we approach 100
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Global Indigenous Rights

And more...

Install Image, *Land Matters: Shifting Ground*, 2024 exhibition from Family Day Celebrations

A new Season is upon us, a personal note from our Executive Director

HEATHER GEORGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring is right around the corner, for many of us that means time to think about our gardens and spring cleaning. At Woodland we are no different - in addition to work on our gardens we have a lot of cleaning to do in the former Mohawk Institute Building. We are entering our final phase of construction and beginning to install interpretative signage, photos and audio listening stations in preparation of our official opening in Spring 2025.

Our museum building has some exciting updates coming up as well, a new HVAC system for our collections storage, new lobby furniture and a new cloak room (thanks to IKEA Canada) and hopefully many other improvements. We are also excited for our upcoming exhibition with Metis artist Melanie-Monique Rose whose textiles are dyed using Indigenous plant species. Make sure to keep an eye out for our 2024 call for submissions for the 49th annual juried Indigenous Art exhibition. Finally, mark your calendars for June 23rd when we will be hosting a fun filled day of music, arts and film programming for the whole family where we will make a very special announcement about the future of our museum and gallery space.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Woodland Cultural Centre, we couldn't do all of this work without you!



Install image, *Land Matters: Shifting Ground, 2024*



Image from our Corn Soup Celebration



Heather George
Executive Director

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WCC



Nya:wəh/Niá:wen for your Support over GivingTuesday to help the Dwadwənaga:da:t Language Centre

The Woodland Cultural Centre wants to say nya:wəh/niá:wen to our giving community for your generosity on [#GivingTuesdayCA](#). We are overwhelmed with gratitude for your continued support of the Centre and the work we do!

Executive Director, Heather George Writes ...

“Our supporters and donors have once again displayed their generosity and that they, like all of us at Woodland, are passionate about cultural reclamation, preservation and celebration. Your support of our language department is an act of true kindness and love. Our languages are so much more than words on paper – language frames deep philosophical and relational understandings that help all of us engage in kinder, more compassionate ways and are an important part of our healing from the trauma of residential school. Like many not-for-profit organizations that participate in

[#GivingTuesday](#), charitable donations form an important part of our financial wellbeing and they are also an important indication that you believe in us and the work we do.

Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton' (I to you all, sending forth embracing, celebratory, good energy)”



Image Courtesy of Canada Post
Meet our Language Department (left to right)
Krista Miller, Kaniehtenhawi Deer, and
Teharontorens George Doxtater

Thanks to your generous contributions we were able to raise \$25,352 in support of the preservation of Hodinohsho:ni languages and the important revitalization work being done at Woodland. Nya:wəh/Niá:wen to the Dufresne-Ray Family Fund at Hamilton Community Foundation, which for the fourth consecutive year in a row has matched the first \$5,000 of your donations. We are so grateful to have your continued support and generous contribution.

Nya:wəh/Niá:wen to Ontario Trillium Foundation for Granting WCC \$150,000 from Their Community Investment Program



Woodland Cultural Centre has been successfully chosen to receive \$150,000 Capital grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation. This grant will address a community need by replacing our insufficient HVAC to safely control the climate in our Museum and preserve our collection of sacred Indigenous artifacts.

Our exhibitions and museum displays of our collection are a central component of the cultural and educational mandate we hold as an Indigenous Cultural Centre. By installing an upgraded HVAC unit with the correct climate monitoring controls, we can continue to offer our community the opportunity to view and learn from artifacts in a space that is safe and accessible.

Nya:wəh/Niá:wen to Ontario Trillium Foundation for their continued support of our mission and mandate and recognizing the vital role that WCC holds in our community and educating our visitors.



Donor Story, meet Kassondra Walters...

My journey reconnecting with my Hodinohsho:ni culture began September 2021 at The Mohawk Institute. Standing with my mother, I listened as she shared what she knew of my great-grandmother's survival story. My mother has always been proud of her Oneida and Mohawk heritage, and since I was a small child, I've been a member of Six Nations of the Grand River, like my mother.

As the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation approached, I felt the calling to reconnect with my Indigenous roots. My maternal grandparents were born and raised on Six Nations, displaced at young ages. Blessed to not attend residential school, my grandparents rarely spoke about their family and life on Six Nations.

Reconnecting with my Indigenous roots, I reclaimed my voice and was ejected from a career in corporate culture, choosing to become an Indigenous social entrepreneur. Participating in the virtual tour of The Mohawk Institute, I connected with the Woodland Cultural Centre, and learned of the impactful work they lead to preserve and share the vibrant culture of the Hodinohsho:ni peoples.

I choose to donate 5% of my business'revenue to the Woodland Cultural Centre in gratitude, honouring my mother, grandparents, and all my Ancestors.,



Kassondra Walters
Founder & CEO, KD Management & Consulting

Remembering 1924 and 100 years of Hodinohsho:ni leadership in Global Indigenous Rights

1924 was a year of great change in Six Nations of the Grand River, in October of that year the first Band Council election was held under the requirements of Canadian Federal Law (the Indian Act), and with the support of some community members. This left the community with two forms of governance, the Confederacy and the Band Council. In October of 2024 we will open an exhibition looking at the community concerns and pressures that led to the change in governance.

One of the pressures faced by the Confederacy was the freezing of the Six Nations Trust Fund by the Federal Government in 1920 – this fund which had been mismanaged by generations of government-appointed trustees was used by the Confederacy to build road and schools, pay salaries for doctors and lawyers, award prizes at the annual fall fair and support community members in times of economic hardship. The freezing of this fund along with concerns around meddling by Indian Agents in Six Nations Affairs and concerns over the First World War led the Confederacy to appoint Levi General (who carried the chiefs title of Deskaheh) to lead a mission to the League of Nations (United Nations) seeking international recognition of Hodinohsho:ni sovereignty.

On August 6, 1923 Deskaheh made a formal application to the League, entitled "The Redman's Appeal for Justice;" he had support from Ireland, Panama, Persia, and Estonia, but was barred from speaking at the September 1923 meeting, in large part due to the behind-the-scenes politics of Canada and England. Upon hearing this news, the Mayor of Geneva, Jean-Baptiste Pons invited him to deliver his speech, 'The Plight of the Red Man' at the Salle de la Réformation.

In 1977 the Confederacy again sent representatives to Geneva for the first International NGO Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas. This gathering led to the development of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Last year our Executive Director, who was formerly our guest curator for the 1924 exhibition worked with Dr. Jolene Rickard, Kenneth Deer and the City of Geneva to develop a public exhibition featuring 60 panels along the waterfront in Geneva. Our Director had the great honour of speaking alongside the Mayor at the opening and presenting a lecture at the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Subsequently, we were invited to speak in Paris, France as part of the International Day of Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples presented by the Committee in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (CSIA-Nitassinan). This May we will open an exhibition at the Musée d'ethnographie de Genève titled Sga:t dewęnyaw'e: ohę:dq: (100 ahead) about the work of Levi General and the continued impact of the Hodinohsho:ni Confederacy at the League of Nations, which continues to inspire Indigenous Nations globally.



Stay tuned on our social media channels in May as we will be sharing video and photos from the opening in Geneva and join us for our next 1924 lecture "100 years of Hodinohsho:ni leadership in Global Indigenous Rights" the first week of April.

This project along with our many research and exhibition projects was made possible thanks to the generosity of our provincial and federal funders (including Heritage Canada, Museums Assistance Program), the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee, and the generosity of donors like you.

Thank you for supporting Indigenous narrative sovereignty; our ability to share our histories from our perspectives.



SUPPORT WOODLAND

Donation Levels

- \$100 – \$499 -will receive acknowledgement on the WCC website updated twice per year (downloadable PDF)
- \$500 – \$1,499 -will receive invitation to screening of a special virtual tour event and Q & A session and acknowledgement in the WCC Annual Report
- \$1,500 - \$4,999 - will receive preview invitation to exhibitions, acknowledgement on the WCC website for the fiscal year period of the donation and invitation to donor recognition event
- \$5,000 + - will receive a copy of WCC anniversary and other publications

DONATE NOW!

Woodland Cultural Centre needs your help to ensure that we can continue to develop and provide programming and resources to our community and the public!

Support Woodland

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FUNDRAISER?

We can't thank our fundraisers enough for all the hard work they put into their initiatives!

[Click here to access our third-party fundraising forms!](#)

If you're interested in running a fundraiser for the Woodland Cultural Centre, please contact us at 519-759-2650 x 232 or [email here](#). We are here to support you and we can't wait to work with you!

PAYMENT DETAILS

☐ I have enclosed a cheque
(payable to Woodland Cultural Centre)

☐ Donate online
(www.woodlandculturalcentre.ca/donate/)

Charitable registration number: 891177990RR0001

Woodland Cultural Centre respects your privacy. We protect your personal information and adhere to all legislative requirements with respect to protecting privacy. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to deliver services and to keep you informed and up-to-date on the activities of Woodland Cultural Centre through periodic contact. If at any time you wish to be removed from any of these lists, simply contact Woodland Cultural Centre at 519-759-2650 X 232.

With my gift of \$ _____ I am please to support the Woodland Cultural Centre

CONTACT DETAILS

NAME _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

STREET NAME _____ SUITE/APT # _____

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NAME FOR RECOGNITION ON WCC WEBSITE (FOR DONORS \$100 AND UP) _____