



National Committee of Canada
Memory of the World

Canada Memory of the World Register 2020-21 Call for Nominations for Inscription on the Register

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) is pleased to launch the fourth Call for Nominations for inscription on the Canada Memory of the World Register.

The most publicly visible aspect of the Memory of the World Programme, the Register recognizes nationally significant documentary heritage items, collections, or fonds related to our country and its peoples, including those of Indigenous peoples.

The Canada Memory of the World Programme is modeled on the UNESCO Memory of the World International Programme, which aims to preserve and provide access to documentary heritage around the world. The mission of the Canada Memory of the World Programme is to facilitate preservation of documentary heritage, to assist access to documentary heritage, and to increase awareness of its existence and significance.

Both the Canadian and International Registers are accessible online, kept up to date regularly, and made available to the public via the [CCUNESCO](#) and [UNESCO](#) websites, respectively. CCUNESCO has created a Canadian Advisory Committee for Memory of the World to evaluate nominations and recommend submissions for inscription to the Canadian Register and the International Register.

Please note that, while inscription on the Canada Memory of the World Register is prestigious, it does not come with monetary prizes or other compensation. The Register also takes no ownership of the documentary heritage inscribed.

A. Areas of focus 2020-2021

Nominations related to all forms of documentary heritage are welcome.

In recognition of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024, CCUNESCO continues to extend a special call for documentary heritage related to Black Canadians with the goal of increasing awareness of this community's diverse cultures, history, and contributions to Canadian society.

CCUNESCO also continues to extend a special call for proposals for documentary heritage related to Indigenous languages and cultures. Many are considered to be endangered, and their preservation, strengthening, and revitalization are of crucial importance to Indigenous peoples and to Canadian society.

B. What can be nominated?

Nominations can be of a single document, a collection, or fonds that provide evidence of stories about Canada.

The Canada Memory of the World Register defines the word 'Canada' as a geographical area that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) since time immemorial. Over time, people from all over the world have also made Canada their home.

This evidence can be documented in numerous ways: text items, non-text items, audiovisual items, and digital items. Hence, nominated materials could include diaries; letters; manuscripts; posters; published books; wampum belts; art works; photographs; recordings, including of oral heritage and storytelling; and films, as well as material made for the web (sites, games, online lessons, apps, and so on).

The Committee accepts documentary heritage that is part of open collections, i.e. those that are still adding items, but can only assess materials that are part of the collection at the time of nomination. The Committee asks successful nominators whose submissions are inscribed in the Register to keep CCUNESCO apprised of major future acquisitions related to the same collection.

C. Who can nominate?

Individuals, private and public institutions, organizations, and communities who are custodians of documentary heritage of Canadian significance can submit a nomination for inscription on the Canada Memory of the World Register. Joint submissions are also welcome. Please note that each nominating body will be limited to two submissions per intake cycle, for a total of four per Call.

D. How to nominate?

First Step

If you are interested in proposing documentary heritage for inscription, please send a short Declaration of Interest to CCUNESCO. Describe the documentary heritage, its custodian, and where it is located. Most importantly, indicate its importance for Canada and why it is the most significant example or illustration of the given subject(s).

In preparing your declaration, please refer to the criteria for the Canadian register. Documentary heritage must meet at least one of the six criteria of significance and must also be authentic, unique, accessible, and irreplaceable.

Please note that if your submission contains Indigenous knowledge and/or language and/or traditional cultural expressions, protocols and agreements need to be in place with the Indigenous nations, communities, and/or people to respect their cultural concepts of copyright with regard to their history or heritage. This history or heritage is often located in but not limited to oral traditions, songs, dance, storytelling, anecdotes, place names, hereditary names, and other forms of Indigenous knowledges as outlined and recommended by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.¹

¹ CCUNESCO Memory of the World is committed to respecting the Intellectual Property rights of Indigenous people as recommended in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #69, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion

Your Declaration can be a written document, a video, or an audio recording. Written declarations should be between 500 and 1,500 words. Video or audio recordings should be between 5 and 8 minutes long.

Your Declaration will be reviewed by the [Canadian Advisory Committee for Memory of the World](#), which provides recommendations as to its suitability. You will then receive a letter providing feedback. You may then be invited to proceed to the second step in the nomination process.

Second Step

Invited applicants will have approximately four to five months to submit a Nomination Form, available on the Register web page. Nominations are limited to the Nomination Form and an optional annex of up to three photographs. The Committee will then conduct a full evaluation of your nomination and inform you of its decision.

E. Timelines

The next two dates to submit a Declaration of Interest are December 4, 2020 and March 1, 2021.

For those invited to the next stage, the next two dates to submit the completed Nomination Form are May 15, 2021 and September 11, 2021.

F. Contacts

If you have questions about the program please contact Elaine Young, Programme Officer, Communication and Information, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, by email at elaine.young@ccunesco.ca, or by telephone at 613-566-4414 x 4095.

Please send declarations of interest and nominations to the attention of Daly Koffi, Program Assistant, Social and Human Sciences, Communication and Information, by email at daly.koffi@ccunesco.ca, or by mail at PO Box 1047, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V8.