

## Canada Memory of the World Register 2023-24

### Call for Nominations

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) is pleased to launch the **2023-24 Call for Nominations for Inscription on the Canada Memory of the World Register**.

The Register recognizes nationally significant documentary heritage items, collections, or fonds related to our country and its peoples, including those of Indigenous peoples. It aims to facilitate preservation of documentary heritage, to assist access to documentary heritage, and to increase awareness of its existence and significance.

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.

Both the Canadian and International Registers are accessible online, kept up to date regularly, and made available to the public via, respectively, the [CCUNESCO](#) and [UNESCO](#) websites. Evaluations are undertaken by the Canadian Advisory Committee for Memory of the World, a committee of experts formed by CCUNESCO.

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.

#### **Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Memory and Knowledge**

The Canada Memory of the World Register recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of Canada transfer, teach, understand, and share their histories and stories in unique ways. Indigenous Peoples own their histories and stories. They decide when, if, and how to submit items to the Canada Memory of the World Register. Cultural sensitivities, including Indigenous communities' custodianship of their materials, and their guardianship of access, will be honoured. Inscription on the Register does not infringe on Indigenous peoples' ownership, control, access, and possession of their histories and stories.

The Canada Memory of the World Register recognizes Indigenous Peoples' rights as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Joint-Orentlicher Principles.

## **A. 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.

Memory can be documented in numerous ways: textual items, non-textual items, audiovisual items, and digital items. Hence, nominated materials could include diaries; letters; manuscripts; posters; published books; wampum belts; works of art; photographs; audiovisual 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 collections that are still in the process of being created, such as the archives of living people or ongoing institutions. However, the Committee can only assess materials that are part of the collection at the time of nomination. The Committee asks successful nominators of open collections to keep CCUNESCO regularly informed of major future acquisitions related to the same collection.

## **B. 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 Call.

## **C. How to nominate?**

### **First Step: Complete a Declaration of Interest**

If you are interested in proposing documentary heritage for inscription, please send a short Declaration of Interest to CCUNESCO. This Declaration of Interest 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.

The Declaration of Interest should describe the documentary heritage in brief, identify the custodian/owner, and indicate where it is located. The Declaration of Interest should also indicate the importance of the material for Canada, especially why it should be considered the most significant example or illustration of the subject or theme, place or time, or people or society it represents.

Please refer to the nomination form to help prepare your Declaration of Interest. Documentary heritage must meet at least one of the key criteria for national significance, as well as the additional considerations. Any materials considered for the Register must be authentic, unique, accessible, and irreplaceable.

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 of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity (2005), more commonly known as the Joinet/Orentlicher Principles.

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 or intellectual property rights. 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.

Your Declaration of Interest will be reviewed by the [Canadian Advisory Committee for Memory of the World](#), and 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: Completing a Nomination Form**

Invited applicants will have approximately three to four months from the receipt of feedback on the Declaration of Interest to submit a Nomination Form. A copy of the form is available on the [CCUNESCO website](#). Nominations must be completed using the Nomination Form; additional material is limited, as explained in the criteria for completing the form.

Upon receipt of your completed form, the Committee will conduct a full evaluation of your nomination and inform you of its decision.

#### **D. Timelines**

The next date to submit a Declaration of Interest is **December 8, 2023**.



For those invited to the next stage, the deadline for the completed Nomination Form will be in May 2024. Most nominations will receive a reply in summer 2024, with an announcement taking place in the fall. Please note that incomplete or unclear applications may result in delays.

#### **E. Contact**

Please email declarations of interest and nominations to the attention of Elaine Young, Programme Officer, Communication and Information, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, at [elaine.young@ccunesco.ca](mailto:elaine.young@ccunesco.ca), or by mail at PO Box 1047, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V8. You can also contact Elaine for any questions related to the program.