

Residential Schools Memorial

Request for Expressions of Interest





Short description

On June 25, 2021, the Alberta government announced that it would work with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities to establish a permanent memorial on the Alberta legislature grounds for the victims of the residential school system. During the Throne speech on February 22, 2022, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta announced that the Minister of Indigenous Relations will complete engagements with Indigenous communities and will establish a permanent memorial on the grounds of the legislature to remember the victims of the Indian Residential School system.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #82 calls "upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Memorial in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities."

On September 30, 2021, the Alberta Government planted a tree on the legislature grounds to represent growth, continuity, renewal and life. A reconciliation garden will also be planted on the site. The Government of Alberta is now welcoming Expressions of Interest for a permanent memorial for the site.

The Residential Schools Memorial Advisory Panel was established to develop a vision for the memorial with engagement from Indigenous communities, create an Expression of Interest document, review eligible artist submissions and provide a recommended artist for the memorial

The Residential Schools Memorial Request for Expressions of Interest is open to all Indigenous artists who live in or are from Alberta.

Long description

Background

The Government of Alberta honours the past, present and future First Peoples of this land. We acknowledge that this land has embraced and nourished the Cree, Métis, Blackfoot and many others for generations. We recognize that Edmonton, the site of the memorial, is within Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis people in Alberta, who share a deep connection with this land.

On June 25, 2021, the Alberta government announced that it would work with First Nations and Métis communities to establish a permanent memorial on the Alberta legislature grounds for the victims of the residential school system.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #82 calls "upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Memorial in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities." The Government of Alberta is committed to implementing this Call to Action.

Between 1893 and 1996, more than 134 residential schools operated in Canada, supported by the federal government and often run by churches and missionary organizations. The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement recognized 25 residential school locations in Alberta.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the legacy and intergenerational trauma of the residential schools. Approximately 150,000 Indigenous children in Canada attended residential schools. The schools, like the Sixties Scoop, were meant to remove Indigenous children from their families, languages and cultures. Years of these practices caused intergenerational harm, but Indigenous cultures and communities remain strong and focused on a prosperous future.



Request for Expressions of Interest

The Government of Alberta invites Indigenous artists or Indigenous artist-led teams, collectives or partnerships of artists from or living in Alberta to submit an Expression of Interest for an exterior memorial honouring residential school survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities. The memorial will be placed in the reconciliation garden area in the southeast area of the legislature grounds.

Artists may propose artworks in a scale, scope and medium that meets the requirements of the site. There are no restrictions on materials to be used for the memorial. The proposed site is approximately 15'x15'. The monument base will be approximately 6'x6' to 8'x8'. The monument height may range from 3' to 12'. The monument footprint will be adjusted according to the size of the monument. The site requirements are approximations and adjustments may be made depending on received proposals.

Indigenous Relations staff will be able to answer questions and arrange site tours upon request. Please contact ir.rscrg@gov.ab.ca to arrange a tour or if you have any questions or need support in developing your proposal.

The Government of Alberta welcomes concept proposals that honour survivors of residential schools and those who did not return from these institutions. The government invites concept proposals that honour First Nations' and Métis individuals or communities, languages (including Blackfoot, two variants of Plains Cree [one sometimes known as Woodland Cree], Dene Suliné, Dene Tha', Dunne-Za, Métis Cree, Michif, Nakoda, Saulteaux and Tsuut'ina), ways of knowing and/or reflects the Indigenous experience in Alberta.

Submissions require a letter of expression of interest including a brief proposed concept, resume/CV/artist(s) biography(ies), examples of previous public artwork or a clear demonstration of how the final project will be delivered, and image details. A rendering or image to support the proposed concept is required. Submissions should also include a connection to community and stories about the legacy of residential schools.

The panel will only review proposals that meet submission requirements.



Eligibility Criteria

This Request for an Expression of Interest (RFEOI) is open to any Indigenous artist or artist-led teams, collectives or partnerships of artists from or living in Alberta. Recent familial connections to Alberta First Nations, the Metis Settlements or Métis Nation Regions, or Inuit communities are required.

Artists are defined as individuals who are actively pursuing a career in the arts, who have invested in the development of their artistic skills, voice and goals. Artists may have formal training, may have shared their work publicly, may have been compensated for their work, and may have a relationship with their artistic communities and peers. Artists do not need to be working professionally in the arts full-time. Artists may also include individuals working in craft, design industries and/or architecture.

This RFEOI is also open to artist-led collectives and artist-community or artist-business partnerships where the lead artist fulfills the eligibility above.

Expression of Interest Evaluation

The Residential Schools Memorial Project will be awarded following a two-stage process as follows:

- RFEOI submissions will be evaluated for eligibility by the Ministries of Indigenous Relations; Infrastructure; and Culture and Status of Women and provided to the Panel for their selection.
- The Residential Schools Memorial Advisory Panel will then review the eligible submissions and recommend the artist for the project.
 - Membership of the Advisory Panel includes representatives from Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association, Stoney Nakoda – Tsuut’ina Tribal Council, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, Metis Nation of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council, as well as Elders recommended by the minister.

Review criteria will be based on:

- Quality or compelling nature of proposed concept and Letter of Expression of Interest that reflects the intended purpose of the project.
- Meaning/impression/story of how the memorial reflects the history of residential schools in Alberta.
- The connection to community and stories about the legacy of residential schools.
- Reasonable proposal for the budget.
- An established practice in public art, which may include professional connections to the craft, design industries and/or architecture.
- Experience/ability to manage and deliver the scope of work proposed.
- Demonstrates the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical impact of the artwork.
- Site specificity or responsiveness to physical context.

Only artists who meet eligibility and review criteria will be considered for selection by the advisory panel.

Since the closing date of the Request for Expressions of Interest is July 29, 2022, the successful artist will be selected and announced on September 30, 2022. Completion date of the memorial is tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2023.

Please direct any questions to ir.rscrg@gov.ab.ca.

Post Date

June 22, 2022

Category

Construction

Close Date

July 29, 2022 2:00pm Mountain Daylight Time

Estimated Value

Up to \$1 million