



BOARD POLICY
REPATRIATION OF HUMAN REMAINS OF THE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA

Preamble	<p>The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is committed to treating the <i>human remains</i> of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada presently in its possession with dignity and respect and to returning them to the descendant Indigenous communities upon request and in the appropriate manner.</p>
Policy	<p>The objective of this policy is to facilitate the return of human remains to descendant Indigenous communities if this is the expressed wish of these communities and they have a demonstrable claim.</p> <p>All requests for the return of human remains by an Indigenous community that can demonstrate ancestry will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If no conclusive evidence of ancestry can be provided, claims based on <i>cultural affinity</i> will also be considered. The ROM will not arbitrarily decide contested cases, i.e., cases in which more than one Indigenous group claim the same Ancestors.</p> <p>The ROM will make every reasonable effort to respect the wishes of the descendant Indigenous communities requesting the return of human remains.</p> <p>Requests from Indigenous groups not resident in Canada will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>A copy of all inquiries regarding human remains of Indigenous Peoples of Canada will be sent to the office of the Deputy Director, Collections and Research (DDC&R). The DDC&R will notify the CER Committee of all requests for repatriation of human remains and provide progress reports to the Committee on those requests.</p>
Explanation of Terms	<p><i>human remains</i>: physical remains of human bodies. This term does not include remains or portions of remains that have been used by Indigenous People for the production of artifacts.</p> <p><i>cultural affinity</i>: refers to a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced historically or prehistorically between a present day Indigenous community and an identifiable earlier group.</p>
Date	January 17, 2002
Amended	March 6, 2008 (housekeeping) September 24, 2009 (New language) November 15, 2012 (no changes) March 26, 2015 (no changes) June 25, 2018 (with amendments) Next review 2021



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MONITORING

Adherence to Policy

Board: The Collections, Engagement & Research Committee will periodically review management's adherence to the policy.

Management: The Director & CEO and the Deputy Director, Collections & Research will ensure that the Collections, Engagement & Research Committee has all the relevant information for determining adherence.

Policy Review

<i>Method</i>	Internal Report
<i>Responsibility</i>	Collections, Engagement & Research Committee
<i>Minimum Frequency</i>	Every three years
