



2019 SICC ē-micimināyakik Gathering
Museums, Cultural Centres, Archives, Interpretive Centres & Libraries
Workshop 5
Nyla Klugie-Migwans, Jodi Simkin & Michelle Robinson

Title: Repatriation of Ancestral Objects

Presenters: Nyla Klugie-Migwans, Jodi Simkin & Michelle Robinson

Biography: Nyla Klugie-Migwans is from the wolf clan and a member of the Selkirk First Nation of Fort Selkirk, Yukon and Tlicho Nation of NWT. Nyla works as the Culture and Heritage Training Coordinator for the Government of Yukon Museums Unit. She works with First Nations in regards to training, capacity development, and First Nations initiatives in the area of culture and heritage. The Searching for Our Heritage database has included working with museums on an international and national basis to acquire information that is linked to Yukon First Nation communities. These artifacts hold great meaning to people, families and community. This project has been one of Nyla's passions. She is inspired to learn the culture, heritage and traditions as a tool for positive change and provide guidance in all things that she does in regards to her position.

Biography: Jodi Simkin is the Director of Cultural Affairs & Heritage for Klahoose First Nation. Located in central British Columbia, the Nation has undertaken the development of a systematic framework for the research, location, and repatriation of ancestral remains and related cultural patrimony. A lifelong advocate of social justice issues, Jodi is also the Vice-President of the British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA), an appointed member of the BCMA Indigenous Advisory Committee, and of the Association on American Indian Affairs Repatriation Working Group. Jodi is a past presenter for the Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM) and of the Learned Society, and is an inductee in the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Biography: Michelle Robinson is a member of Klahoose First Nation and serves as an elected member of Council for the nation's government. As carrier of cultural information, Michelle is called upon frequently to share her traditional knowledge with the community. She actively promotes and facilitates activities in support of language and culture. Passionate about the repatriation of ancestral remains, she is steadfast in her determination to redress this historic wrong and bring the ancestors home.

Abstract: Nyla will talk about The Searching for Our Heritage project that locates artifacts of Yukon First Nation origin housed in museums around the world which started 32 years ago. They created and developed a database that linked Yukon First Nation artifacts. Currently, there are over 8,134 artifacts linked to Yukon First Nations. These artifacts bring a lost legacy home to those eager to rediscover a cultural identity that that is invaluable to their holistic well-being. This online database was launched in 2018. It is hope through this workshop that other First Nations across turtle island will use this database as a tool to implement in their own culture centres as an idea or special project.

Abstract: Jodi and Michelle will discuss the *Have you seen our Grandmothers? The Search for the Ancestors of the Klahoose First Nation*. Like many BC First Nations, the Klahoose Nation has struggled to maintain its cultural identity. Years of restrictive legislation, coupled with the intergenerational effects of the residential school era, have left a difficult legacy. They have had ancestors and their belongings pillaged and removed from their homelands. Through technology and the development of a systematic framework for repatriation, the Klahoose Nation is striving to address this historic wrong. The Journey Home Project and the Mountain and Mouse Mobile App will be the focus of this session and will help demonstrate the opportunities and benefits of working together to bring our Grandmothers home.



Learning Objectives: Participants will:

- Learn how to various project and technology to bring ancestral objects home;
- Learn how technology works to repatriate items to their respected communities;
- Learn how to use the database as a tool for learning; and,
- Through a learning activity, conduct research and how it can be used as traditional knowledge in a learning environment.