



2019 SICCC ē-micimināyakik Gathering
Museums, Cultural Centres, Archives, Interpretive Centres & Libraries
Workshop 9
Naomi Recollet

Title: Birchbark, Memories & the Act of Listening: Exploring Museums Collections Containing Anishinaabek Material

Presenter: Naomi Recollet

Biography: Naomi Recollet is Anishinaabe-kwe (Odawa/ Ojibwe), Crane Clan from the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. She graduated from Carleton University in 2012 with a Master of Arts in Canadian Studies; and afterwards she began working for her First Nation with the Wiikwemkoong Islands Claim Unit and later with the Wikwemikong Heritage Organization. This work experience influenced her decision to enroll in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. In November 2018, Naomi graduated with a Master of Museum Studies and a Master of Information (concentrating in archives and record management). Currently, Naomi works at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation.

Abstract: This workshop will be structured like a seminar, where the first part will be a PowerPoint presentation and the second part will be a participatory activity. In my PowerPoint presentation I will reflect on my internship experiences and museum collections that I have been able to visit throughout the past three years. Each visit was an opportunity to be trained in preservation, curatorial and object research, and how to examine the technical things of an object (materials, designs, measurements, etc.). But the one element that seemed to have a lasting impact are the stories and memories that came out. My work has been about exploring the memories and stories that are contained within museum objects. Focusing on the topic of power and agency with of Anishinaabe objects in museum collections, as they have the ability to “speak” and communicate – it is just a matter of listening. Because, even after being separated from the community for a long time (to the point of being forgotten in some cases), there is still some kind of a connection that remains - they were still connected to stories from the land, stories of home and family. A personal collection of Anishinaabe materials/ objects will be shown with an activity book to work through different ways of looking and examining the objects. This activity is good for community members and students whom might be thinking about a career in the museum field; or community museums in developing projects that involve community engagement, education/ programming, or object research/provenance.

Learning Objectives: Participants will:

- Engage in a hands-on learning activity that allows for workshop participants to receive a quick training session on how Anishinaabe approaches and ways of looking can be considered as a method of object research.