

REPATRIATION OF HUMAN REMAINS OF THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF CANADA

Preamble	The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is committed to treating the <i>human remains</i> of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada presently in its possession with dignity and respect and to returning them to the descendant Aboriginal communities upon request and in the appropriate manner.
Policy	<p>The objective of this policy is to facilitate the return of human remains to descendant Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal 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.</p> <p>The ROM will make every reasonable effort to respect the wishes of the descendant Aboriginal communities requesting the return of human remains.</p> <p>Requests from Aboriginal groups not resident in Canada will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><u>A copy of all inquiries regarding human remains of Aboriginal 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.</u></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 Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal community and an identifiable earlier group.</p>
Date	January 17, 2002
Amended	March 6, 2008 (housekeeping) September 24, 2009 (New language)

MONITORING

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Adherence to Policy

Board: The Collections, Exhibitions & 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, Exhibitions & Research Committee has all the relevant information for determining adherence.

Policy Review

Method Internal Report

Responsibility Collections, Exhibitions & Research Committee

Minimum Frequency Every three years
