awareness
education
connection

GORD DOWNIE & WENJACK FUND CHANIE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

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The Wenjack and Downie families grant DWF full permission to share the experiences of their beloved family members, Chanie and Gord, with you.

"We hope you will honour their legacies and act to make their dream of making Canada a better, more equitable country, a reality. Join us on the path to reconciliation."

- The Downie and Wenjack Families

Land Acknowledgment

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) operates programs throughout the country currently called Canada in what many Indigenous people call Turtle Island.

Our main office is located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat Peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people.

We also acknowledge that the area is covered by Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and is located within Dish With One Spoon Treaty Territory and as such, we commit to honouring the spirit and responsibilities that are outlined in those agreements as we do our work.

DWF's employees are also located throughout Canada on different treaty and unceded territories. We recognize and are privileged to have connections to various Indigenous lands and the communities that live and care for them.

"Nia:wen and miigwetch for your support and encouragement, and for continuing to walk with us on this path toward reconciliation."

A Message from Our Board Chair

On behalf of the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund Board of Directors, I am pleased to share with you this report highlighting all DWF has accomplished over the last year.

Thank you to our supporters, partners, and community members for your continued commitment and enthusiasm for building a better Canada for all. This year's Annual Report highlights what we can achieve when we all come together with a shared purpose.

This report outlines the work done between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022. The past twelve months have shown us how important it is to lean on each other, especially in times of grief and change.

In 2021, the country was rocked by the news of unmarked graves uncovered at the sites of former residential schools. DWF immediately stepped up, providing ways for people throughout Canada to stay up-to-date and keep the memories of the children who were lost, alive. Specifically, we created the 215+ Pledge which currently has over 15,000 pledges and continues to grow and provide access to critical information relating to reconciliation. We took on this new work all while sustaining and expanding our existing programming throughout Canada.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack staff, led by President & CEO, Sarah Midanik, for all that they do to make these accomplishments possible. Nia:wen and miigwetch for your support and encouragement, and for continuing to walk with us on this path toward reconciliation.

Robert Watts
Chair of the Board of Directors
Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

A Message from Our President and CEO

Thank you, marsi, to our supporters, partners, and community for continuing to walk the journey of reconciliation with us. We are thrilled to present this year's Annual Report to reflect on and celebrate all we have achieved together.

2021 brought a lot of grief with the uncovering of unmarked graves at the sites of former residential schools. With that grief, though, also came an outpowering of solidarity and people looking to take real action to move reconciliation forward in meaningful ways. We've provided essential resources for thousands of people in Canada this past year to help them take action, especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 global pandemic. We are committed to continuing to do the hard, but necessary, work to build a more just and equitable Canada for all.

Sarah Midanik
President and CEO
Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

"We are committed to continuing to do the hard, but necessary, work to build a more just and equitable Canada for all."

"The more we embrace the truth and commit to building a better future for all, the stronger we all are."

A Message from the Downie and Wenjack Families

Chi miigwetch, thank you, to everyone who continues to support the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund.

The number of people throughout Canada who have raised their voices and joined us in taking action to move reconciliation forward continues to grow and we couldn't be more thrilled. The path toward reconciliation is a long and often difficult one, but the more we embrace the truth and commit to building a better future for all, the stronger we all are.

"The past year has been a significant one for many reasons. During this time, we experienced profound grief as communities began the process of investigating the grounds of former residential schools. Through this grief, however, we have also seen action from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working to appropriately address the legacy of harm. Canada has changed—it can never be the same."
– Pearl (Wenjack) Achneepineskum, Chanie's Sister

We cannot thank you enough for continuing to share Chanie and Gord's stories. By supporting the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund, you help to keep their legacies alive, build awareness and education, and make our country a better place. You have acted on Gord's call to "Do Something" and we gratefully acknowledge that effort and resolve. Thank you for joining us on the path toward reconciliation and for your commitment to taking meaningful action in your lives and communities.

Mike Downie
Board Member & Gord's Brother

Harriet Visitor
Board Member & Chanie's Niece

About Chanie

Chanie Wenjack was born on January 19, 1954, in Marten Falls First Nation, also known as Ogoki Post – a remote Anishinaabe community in Northwestern Ontario.

In 1963 at the age of nine, Chanie, along with his sisters, was forced to attend Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School in Kenora, Ontario. In 1966, at the age of 12, Chanie ran away from Cecilia Jeffrey, attempting to reunite with his family who was 600 kilometres away in Ogoki Post. Nine other children ran away that same day, but all were caught within 24 hours. Chanie's body was found beside the railway tracks on October 22, 1966, a week after he fled. He succumbed to starvation and exposure. In his pocket was nothing but a glass jar with seven wooden matches. Chanie fell victim to Canada's legacy of colonization of Indigenous people. Chanie's story, tragically, is like so many stories of Indigenous children in this country. To learn more about Chanie Wenjack's story, visit **DownieWenjack.ca**.

About Gord

Gord Downie was a non-Indigenous, Canadian rock star, storyteller, and poet. He was the frontman, and lyricist for the band The Tragically Hip from 1984 until his passing in 2017.

In August 2016, Gord asked everyone in Canada to look at the true history of this country and to "Do Something" to change the state of Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations for the better. Following that, Gord released his last solo project, *Secret Path*, which includes an album, graphic novel, and film. It tells the story of Chanie Wenjack and calls attention to the challenges faced by Indigenous people as a result of the Canadian residential school system. In December 2016 at the Assembly of First Nations in Gatineau, Québec, National Chief Perry Bellegarde honoured Gord with an eagle feather, a symbol of the Creator, for his support of Indigenous people and communities in Canada. Gord was also given an honourary Indigenous name, Wicapi Omani, which is Lakota for "man who walks among the stars." On October 17, 2017, Gord Downie passed away surrounded by his children and family. His messages of hope and powerful calls to action remain. Gord's legacy to create lasting, positive change in Canada lives on through all of us. To learn more about Gord Downie's legacy, visit **DownieWenjack.ca**.

Our Leadership

DWF is an Indigenous-led organization, whose work is rooted in the Seven Grandfather Teachings – Honesty, Wisdom, Respect, Humility, Courage, Love, and Truth. DWF is governed by a Board of Directors made up of outstanding Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders.

Bob Watts
Chair, Mohawk and Ojibway, Six Nations

Harriet Visitor
Wenjack Family Member, Anishinaabekwe

Mike Downie
Downie Family Member, Ally

Sarah Midanik
President & CEO of DWF, Métis Nation of Alberta

Killulark Arngna'naaq
Treasurer, Inuit, Qamani'tuaq

Stuart Coxe
Secretary, Ally

Dr. Alika Lafontaine
Anishinaabe, Cree, Métis and Pacific Islander, Treaty 4 Territory

Buffy Sainte-Marie
Cree, Piapot First Nation

Hillary Thatcher
Métis

Kory Wilson
We Wai Kai Nation

Our Work

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action urge corporations, governments, educational and religious institutions, foundations, organizations, civil society groups, and all people throughout Canada to actively participate in actions that move reconciliation forward. Educating all people in Canada on the history and lasting impact of residential schools is a necessary and important component of reconciliation.

Reconciliation is not just an Indigenous issue — it is a Canadian issue. DWF provides education on the true history of Canada and the lasting impact of residential schools. We encourage participation in reconciliation initiatives, through programming, partnerships, campaigns, and events.

Our work is based on the pillars of **Awareness**, **Education**, and **Connection & Action**.

AWARENESS

DWF raises awareness through events and our national campaign, Secret Path Week, and Indigenous History Month.

EDUCATION

DWF provides access to educational tools and resources through the Legacy Schools and Legacy Spaces programs.

CONNECTION & ACTION

DWF connects people throughout Canada to encourage a dialogue about issues impacting Indigenous people, communities, and the country's true history of residential schools and calls on all people in Canada to take action through reconciliACTION.

MISSION

Inspired by Chanie's story and Gord's call to build a better Canada, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) builds cultural understanding and creates a path toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Through this work, we aim to improve the lives of Indigenous people by building awareness, education, and connections between all peoples in Canada.

PURPOSE

The impact of residential schools is still felt today. We know the consequences of these institutions continue to affect the health and well-being of Indigenous people and heighten inequalities throughout the country. Reconciliation is critical to healing this rift and ensuring the well-being and prosperity of all people in Canada.

VALUES

Community-Led

DWF's programming is co-designed with Indigenous communities and leaders to achieve the stated objectives of awareness, education, and action & connection.

Collaboration

DWF is an organization with the power to bring leaders together, create impactful partnerships, and engage with everyone— regardless of where they are on their reconciliation journey. Collaboration increases support and awareness of both DWF and our partners, in addition to delivering upon our collective goals.

Empowerment

DWF responds to conversations Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities are having on the path towards reconciliation. We leverage our strengths to convene, influence, elevate, and innovate solutions.

Quality

DWF continuously refines our programs to ensure they align with our mission and vision and are the optimal way to deploy resources.

Our Programs

Legacy Schools

The Legacy Schools program is a national initiative to engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, clubs, groups, staff, and students to take part in reconciliation everywhere throughout Canada.

By providing free educational tools, resources, and program development to educators, DWF teaches people about residential schools AND educates on the interests, rights, and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and communities throughout Canada.

The Legacy Schools program started with approximately 300 schools when it was piloted five years ago. Since then, it has grown substantially in reach and impact year over year. As of March 31, 2022, there were 5,139 schools and 6,014 educators registered in the program with representation in all provinces and territories, including schools in rural, remote, northern, and urban communities. On average, the program directly reaches 25 students per educator, for a total reach of 150,350 students. A total of 6,018 toolkits and booster kits were distributed in 2021/2022.

6,014
total signups/active educators

5,139
active unique schools/clubs (multiple educators can sign up at the same school)

3,320
toolkits distributed between September 2021 – March 31, 2022

2,698
booster kits distributed between September 2021 – March 31, 2022

Legacy Schools Across Canada

Educator Advisory Committee

The Educator Advisory Committee consists of First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and non-Indigenous educators that help ensure the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples are recognized and explored in schools throughout Canada.

Each year, DWF and the Educator Advisory Committee review and enhance the resources and materials provided in the Legacy Schools toolkit to ensure the content is relevant and accurate. Schools and educators that are already registered in the program receive booster kits at the start of the school year with the new and updated resources.

Educator Advisory Committee 2021- 2022

Harriet Visitor
Anishinaabe, Teacher, Chanie Wenjack's niece, DWF BoD, Sioux Lookout, Ontario

Christina Sylliboy
Vice Principal, We'koqma'q Mikmaw School, Whycocomagh, Nova Scotia

Joy Skanes
Teacher, Leary's Brook Junior High, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Christina Silzer
Teacher, St. Patrick's High School, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Krista Sherman
Dakota Sioux – Standing Buffalo Saskatchewan, Teacher, Winston Knoll Collegiate, Regina, Saskatchewan

Buffy Sainte-Marie
Piapot First Nation, Teacher, Activist, Musician, Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan/Hawaii

Tamara Rondeau
First Nations, Program Support Teacher, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Danielle Root
Listuguj First Nation, Mi'kmaq Education Coordinator at Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP), Mi'kma'ki, Nova Scotia

Carolynn Roberts
Project Development Officer, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, Rosemère, Quebec

Lisa Prinn
DWF Manager, Education & Activation, Fabre, Quebec/ Toronto, Ontario

Jon Patry
Assistant Principal, James Short Memorial, Calgary, Alberta

Sarah Mazzei
North Vancouver School District K-12, Teacher, North Vancouver, British Columbia

Stephanie Maki
District Principal of Indigenous Education, School District 43 Coquitlam, Capilano, British Columbia

Jen Karpiuk
Métis, Teacher, Crescent Heights High School, Calgary, Alberta

Johna Hupfield
Anishinaabe, Martin Clan, Wasauksing First Nation Indigenous Studies and Anishinabemowin 9-12, Near North District School Board, Parry Sound, Ontario

Greg Halcrow
Director of Education, Cross Lake Education Authority, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, Cross Lake, Manitoba

Kayleigh Jordan-MacGregor
First Nations, DWF Development Associate and Legacy Spaces Program Coordinator, Toronto, Ontario

James Groat
Tuscarora, Consultant Indigenous Education (K-8), District School Board of Niagara, St. Catharines, Ontario

Natalie Goodlet
DWF Youth Ambassador Associate, Whitby, Ontario

Andrea Eby
Teacher, St. Bonaventure School (K-6), Brampton, Ontario

Brad Baker
Squamish Nation, Ministry of Education British Columbia, North Vancouver, British Columbia

Trina Allinotte
Teacher, Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute 9-12, Kitchener, Ontario

Pearl Achneepineskum
Anishinaabe, Chanie Wenjack's sister, Marten Falls, Ontario

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our partners that make the Legacy Schools program possible for schools, groups,and clubs in communities throughout Canada.

"The work of DWF and the Legacy Schools program has been vital in providing resources and opportunities for schools throughout Canada. Working in an early childhood setting, it is often difficult to talk about the dark history of Canada's residential school system, and the impact it has had on Indigenous people and communities. The program and tools created by DWF have supported our educators in this challenging endeavour and laid the foundation for future generations. Our little learners were inspired by Chanie's story, to be better and do better! By participating in the Legacy School program and Walk for Wenjack, we are taking action and creating a path toward reconciliation."

- Jon Patry, Assistant Principal, Calgary Board of Education, Alberta

Artist Ambassador Program & DWF LIVE

The Legacy Schools Artist Ambassador program brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists into schools throughout Canada to inspire student leadership and move reconciliation forward in school communities.

DWF continued to offer the Artist Ambassador program virtually and in-person visits during the 2021/ 2022 school year. DWF hosted interviews online – DWF LIVE – connecting with more than 17,000 viewers, which were primarily Legacy Schools. Each DWF LIVE session was 30-60 minutes and open to all ages and viewers, inspiring everyone who tuned in to answer Gord's call to "Do Something". Artist Ambassadors who participated in the sessions were provided with an honorarium, which was a way to help support artists and recognize their contribution to the program.

DWF hosted 40 virtual and 5 in-person sessions with artists, performers, and the Wenjack sisters visiting schools in rural, remote and urban areas.

Youth Ambassador Program

In the summer of 2021, DWF introduced the first-ever Youth Ambassador program in partnership with RBC Future Launch. This program offers the youth participants the opportunity to gain practical work experience, network, and gain leadership experience all while learning about DWF and Canada's true history with residential schools.

Throughout the 4-week leadership training program, 50 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from throughout Canada engaged in online, part-time work that supports them to become champions of reconciliation in their schools and communities.

"I am so proud to be an Artist Ambassador for the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund. Working with DWF on various programs in French and English has been fun, good for the heart, and meaningful. I always strive to put good things out into the world, to elevate the voice of youth, and to sow seeds of hope and love; I am given that opportunity through the Artist Ambassador program. I'm thrilled to be part of an incredible roster of artists that have inspired me for many years, and to work with a team that has their hearts in the right place."

- Mimi O'Bonsawin, Singer/Songwriter

Legacy Spaces

Legacy Spaces are safe, welcoming places where conversations and education about Indigenous history – and our collective journey toward reconciliation – are encouraged and supported. They also serve as symbols and reminders of the important work each of us needs to undertake, particularly employers, in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

Through an annual investment in our programming, the Legacy Spaces program is an opportunity for organizations both large and small to participate in taking reconciliACTION and creating meaningful connections in the workplace. DWF invites all organizations to take reconciliACTION by committing to the Legacy Spaces program and establishing a safe space for employees and guests to explore Indigenous history and cultures.

Legacy Spaces Program Highlights

45 Legacy Spaces Partners

61 Legacy Spaces

29 cities across **7** provinces & territories

2017-2018
9 Legacy Spaces

2018-2019
29 Legacy Spaces

2019-2020
33 Legacy Spaces

2020-2021
42 Legacy Spaces

2021-2022
61 Legacy Spaces

AMIK

(AH-MIK) BEAVER
$5,000 ANNUALLY

MOOZ

(MOAZ) MOOSE
$10,000 ANNUALLY

MIGIZI

(MIH-GIH-ZEE) EAGLE
$20,000 ANNUALLY

"Bimbo Canada believes reconciliation is an important social issue for all Canadians, including our associates. We are committed to doing our part to create a safe, welcoming space that provides education and spreads awareness about Indigenous history and our journey towards reconciliation."

- Teresa Schoonings, Senior Director of Sustainability for Bimbo Canada

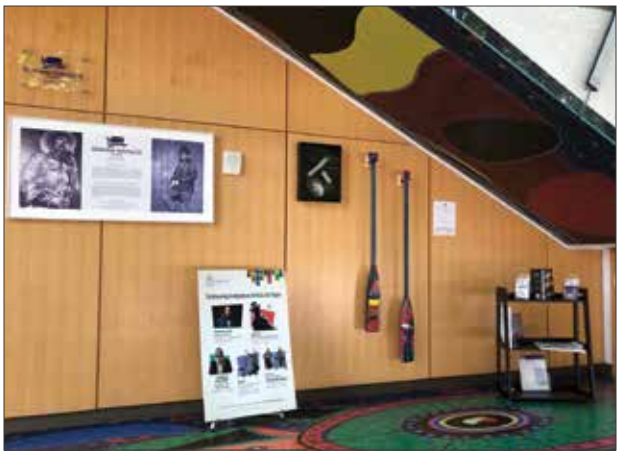
Legacy Spaces

The Hudson's Bay Foundation unveiled two Legacy Spaces inside The Bay and Hudson's Bay head offices in Toronto, Ontario. One of the Legacy Spaces also features a poignant piece from Artist Ambassador Blake Angeconeb.

The first Bimbo Canada Legacy Space in Etobicoke, Ontario features a mural by Artist Ambassador Blake Angeconeb inspired by the Seven Teachings and the company's commitment to 'Moving Forward, Together'. They will be launching three more Legacy Spaces in the coming year.

The first Accenture Canada Legacy Space in St. Catharines, Ontario features artwork by Waab-Shki-Makoons, Clayton Samuel King. They plan to create a total of six Legacy Spaces in their offices throughout the country.

Established in the summer of 2018 by the Abbotsford Arts Council in Abbotsford, British Columbia, the Kariton Art Gallery Legacy Space features an ongoing rotation of local Indigenous artwork and serves as an open community gathering space.



The Legacy Space inside the Burlington Performing Arts Centre in Burlington, Ontario, features artwork by Artist Ambassador Tom Wilson. BPAC hosts an annual concert series called LEGACY in support of DWF during Secret Path Week.

In collaboration with Union Station, DWF unveiled the Reconciliation Begins With You Exhibit inside the station's West Wing in downtown Toronto, Ontario. Located near their Legacy Space, the exhibit was in place from June to September 2021. Photo by Spring Morris.

ReconciliACTIONs

ReconciliACTIONs are meaningful actions that move reconciliation forward and aim to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together. They act as a catalyst for important conversations and change and fulfill Gord's call to action to "Do Something".

Although the recovery of unmarked graves triggered an outpouring of grief throughout the country, it also sparked an outpowering of solidarity and action as people looked for ways to make positive change. The following are just a few examples of the incredible reconciliACTIONs taken during our 2021/2022 fiscal year.

ReconciliACTIONs from 2021 – 2022:

Cedar Planting at Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts, North Poplar Campus, Abbotsford, BC.

Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts students and educators planted cedar trees along the entrance of their school to honour Chanie and the many others that were impacted by residential schools.

James Morden Elementary School students created art and reflection pieces on residential schools and Chanie's story.

Students at James Morden Elementary in Niagara Falls, Ontario took part in an Ask, Imagine, Design, Build, Reflect, and Share project where they were asked "what do we know about residential schools?" while viewing *The Secret Path*. Students then communicated their ideas and understanding surrounding Chanie's story and residential schools through an art piece and a written reflection. Once completed, a display was created to share their learnings with the rest of the school.

Ms. Tenenbaum's class at Thomas Lester Wells Public School in Toronto, ON has been unpacking Chanie's residential school experience through the artwork of Secret Path.

Ms. Tenenbaum's class at Thomas Lester Wells Public School in Toronto, Ontario has been examining *Secret Path* using the art of Jeff Lemire to unpack Chanie's residential school experience. After reading *Secret Path*, students analyzed the imagery in two of the songs. Following their analysis, they selected a powerful image from the book and recreated the picture using the same watercolour and ink techniques Lemire uses in his illustrations. Thank you for sharing your students' beautiful artwork, and inspiring others to take reconciliACTION, Ms. Tenenbaum!

Our Events

Indigenous History Month – June 2021

In June, Canada celebrates Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage, and diversity of Indigenous people. It is also an opportunity to recognize the strength of present-day Indigenous communities. To ensure nationwide accessibility, DWF produced 3 online Indigenous History Month episodes in June of 2021 featuring Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educators, drummers, dancers, musicians, poets and other performers from British Columbia, James Bay Region, and Québec. To wrap up the month's celebrations, a special fourth Kanata/Canada-wide episode was aired on June 30, 2021.

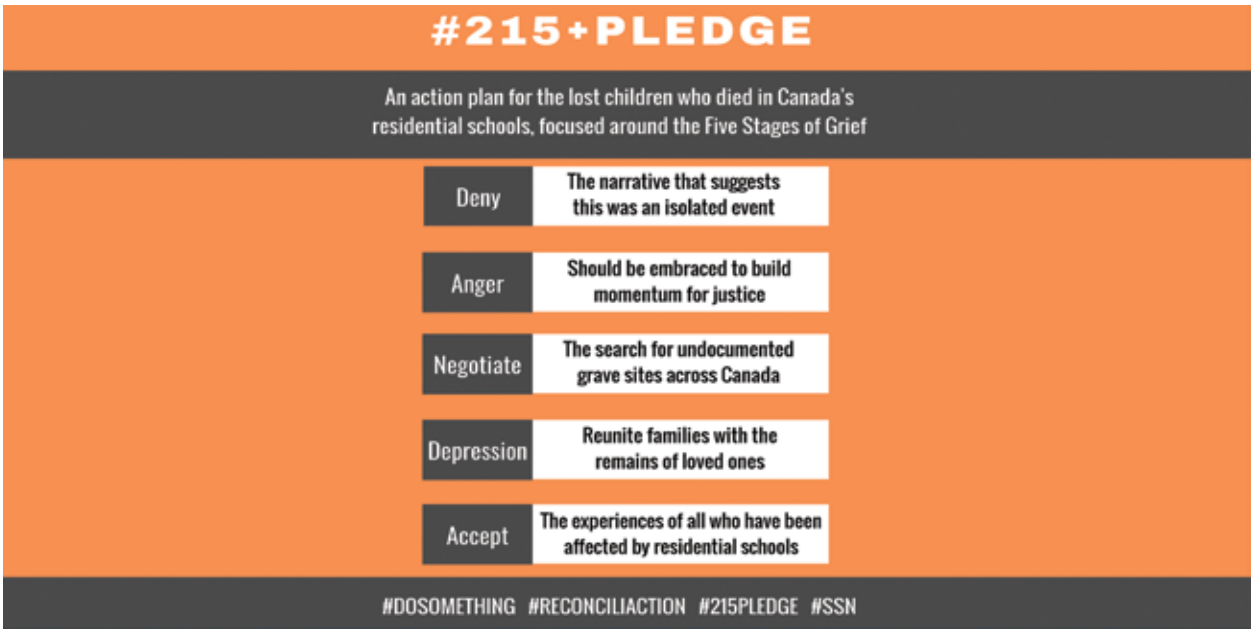
IHM Highlights

11,515
Total number of viewers

2,878
Average views per episode

38,893
Total reach

Canada celebrates Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage, and diversity of Indigenous people.



215+ Pledge

After the recovery of the remains of 215 children at the former Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia last year, there was an outpouring of grief that left many people wondering what to do next. In response, DWF created the 215+ Pledge — a growing coalition for reconciliation and action. With the goal of ensuring no missing child who died at a residential school is ever forgotten, the 215+ Pledge aims to honour the experiences of all affected by residential schools.

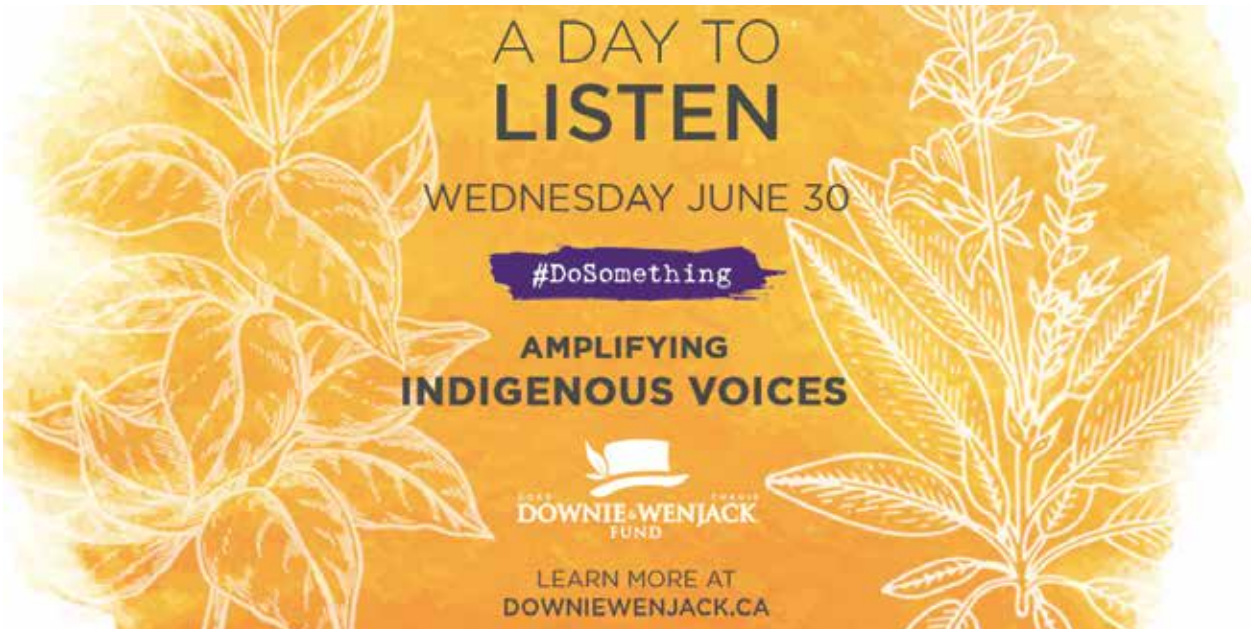
Over the past year, more than 15,000 people have taken the pledge and committed themselves to reconciliation. No matter where you are on the path to reconciliation, there is always the opportunity to further your commitment through education, awareness, action, and connection.

Highlights

15,000

people have taken the pledge and committed themselves to reconciliation

The 215+ Pledge aims to honour the experiences of all affected by residential schools.



A DAY TO LISTEN – June 30, 2021

In recognition of Indigenous History Month, Bell Media, Corus Entertainment Inc., Rogers Sports & Media, Stingray Radio, and more, joined together in an unprecedented collaboration led by DWF to amplify, elevate, listen to, and learn from Indigenous voices with A DAY TO LISTEN.

A DAY TO LISTEN was dedicated to sharing stories from Indigenous leaders, residential school Survivors, Elders, musicians, and teachers throughout the day. The collaboration followed the public announcement that the remains of 215 children were buried at the site of the former Kamloops Residential School and growing numbers of children at former residential school sites across Canada.

With more than 500 radio stations participating, spanning different markets, regions, and formats, A DAY TO LISTEN leveraged the power of radio to enact real change and begin to set a course for a more equitable future.

A DAY TO LISTEN Highlights

543 radio stations throughout Canada aired A DAY TO LISTEN

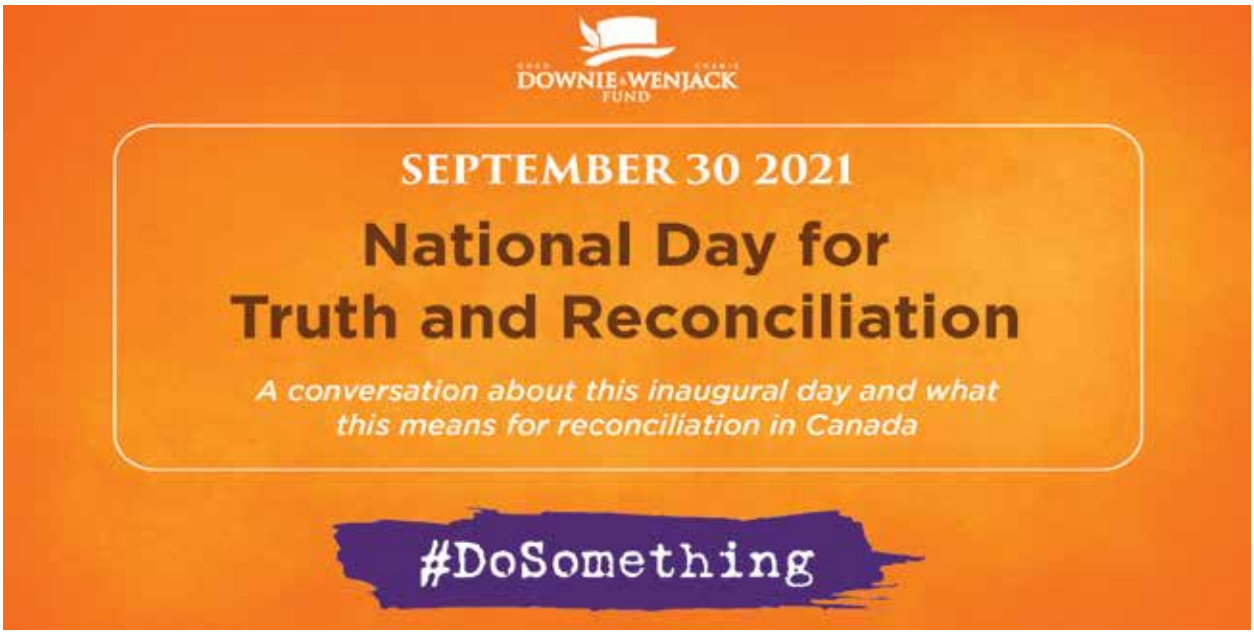
17 interviews with Indigenous leaders, residential school Survivors, Elders, musicians, and teachers to share their stories

30 unique stories which aired from 6:00 am-6:00 pm in each time zone on June 30th

9.49 million impressions
3.93 million reach as of 10:00 am ET, the #DoSomething hashtag was trending #1 in Canada

A DAY TO LISTEN Speakers

Dr. Alika Lafontaine
Phyllis Webstadt
DJ O Show
Harriet Visitor
Theland Kicknosway
Heather Bear
Brad Baker
Isaac Murdoch
Nancy Hollman
Claudette Commanda
Rebecca Thomas
Bob Watts
Theresa Hall
Coralee McGuire-Cyrette
Peter Sackaney
Shina Novalinga
Tabatha Bull
Tanya Talaga



September 30th — The Inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In June of 2021, the federal government announced the creation of a new statutory holiday known as the *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* to be recognized on September 30. This day fulfills the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #80 and serves as a day of remembrance, reflection, learning, and action.

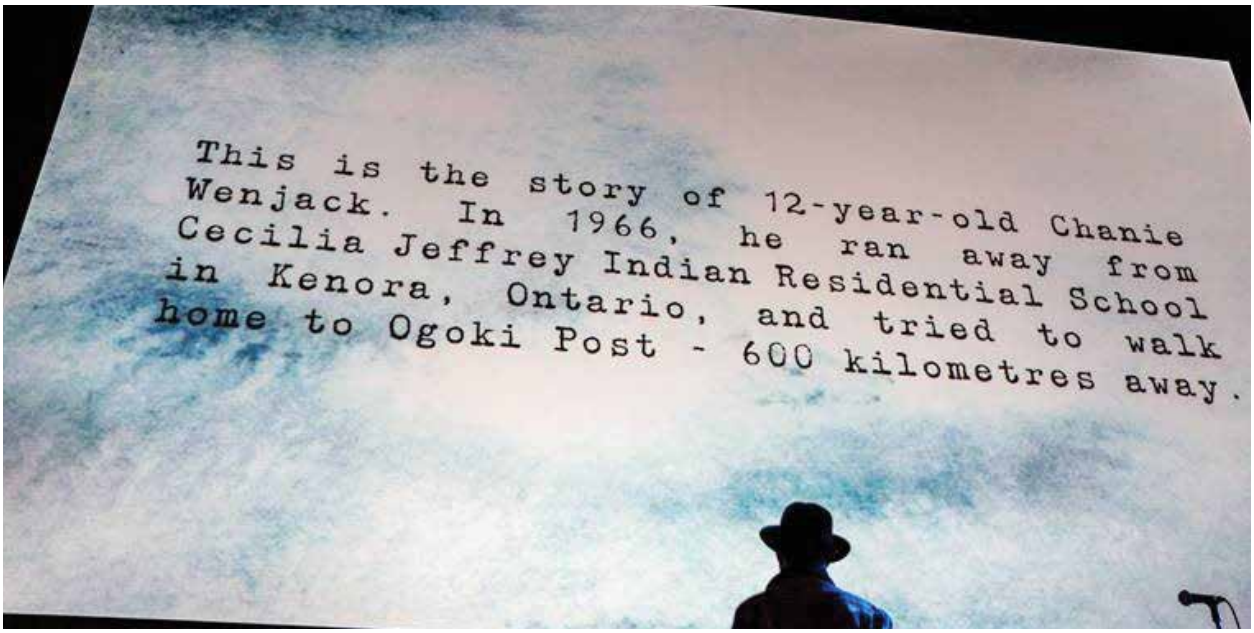
To mark the newly established federal day of recognition, DWF President & CEO, Sarah Midanik, hosted a discussion to explore this new day's significance, what it means for reconciliation in Canada, and how we can participate meaningfully.

Many radio stations from across Canada aired interviews from A DAY TO LISTEN.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Panel Speakers

Hillory Tenute
Blair Cunningham
Bob Watts
Harriet Visitor

This day fulfills the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #80 and serves as a day of remembrance, reflection, learning, and action.



Secret Path Week 2021 – October 17-22

Each year from October 17-22, DWF calls on all people throughout Canada to take action and answer Gord's call to "Do Something" by creating reconciliACTIONs and furthering the conversation about the history and ongoing impact of residential schools.

This year marked the fourth-annual Secret Path Week, a national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack, with October 17th and 22nd marking the dates that Gord and Chanie joined the spirit world, respectively.

Secret Path Week 2021 looked a little different than previous years. With COVID-19 continuing to impact the health and well-being of communities in Canada, DWF offered our Secret Path Week engagements online, providing easily accessible virtual events. In total, **more than 20 virtual DWF events** took place during October, engaging more than **91,831** Legacy Schools program participants. These events included launching our *Reconciliation Begins with You* video series, virtual concerts hosted by Legacy Spaces partners, and online webinars.

Walk for Wenjack

Walk for Wenjack is a community-led event allowing participants to host their own walks individually or with a team. During Secret Path Week 2021, 198 teams and 27,000 participants completed a walk, raising $117,185.51 – nearly doubling our $60,000 goal!

SPW Highlights

Total number of teams and participants: **198** teams and **27,000** participants

Total amount raised during Secret Path Week: **$252,820**

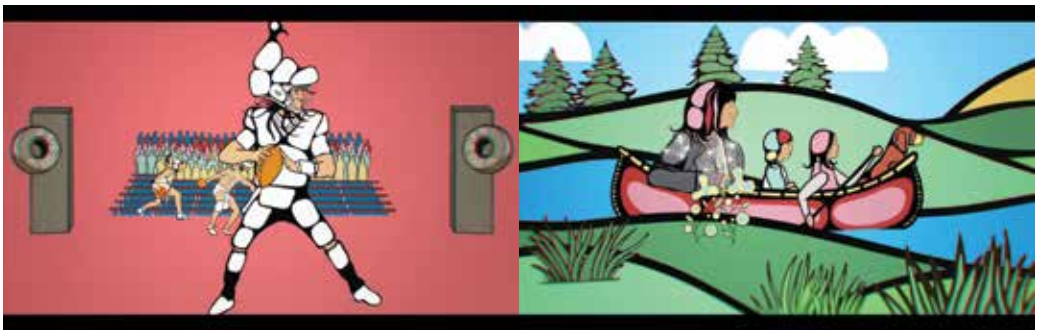
Total amount raised through Walk for Wenjack: **$117,186**

Total of DWF LIVE events: **20+**

‘Reconciliation Begins with You’ Video Series

The *Reconciliation Begins with You* (RBWY) video series was created to raise awareness of the importance of reconciliation, showcase young Indigenous artists, and help everyone in Canada understand their personal responsibility on the journey toward reconciliation. This creative project was led by DWF, in collaboration with Justin Stephenson (director and animator of *Secret Path*), four emerging Indigenous visual artists, and other artistic collaborators including Buffy Sainte-Marie, Humble the Poet, Eekwol, and Isaac Murdoch. During its launch during Secret Path Week 2021, the series garnered an audience of nearly **21,000 people**.

PADDLING ON BOTH SIDES



SNOWSHOE TEACHINGS

BEADING TOGETHER

WE NEED TO TALK

Our Impact as of March 31, 2022

5,139 registered Legacy Schools with representation in every province and territory, reaching Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in rural, remote, northern, and urban communities.

6,014 active Legacy Schools educators who are equipped with the tools and resources to confidently teach their students about the true history and lasting impact of residential schools.

6,018 free Legacy Schools toolkits and booster kits distributed to schools and educators between September 2021 – March 31, 2022.

150,350 students at all grade levels reached through the Legacy Schools program (based on a conservative estimate of 25 students per educator).

45 Legacy Spaces partners in **29** cities in **7** provinces and territories providing a space for continued learning and honest conversations about reconciliation.

4 online Indigenous History Month episodes in June of 2021 with a total reach of **38,893**.

20+ online DWF events, reaching an estimated **91,831** viewers, held during Secret Path Week in October 2021.

198 Walk for Wenjack events held in communities across Canada, engaging more than **27,000** participants in reconciliACTION and raising **$117,185**.

31 Indigenous and non-Indigenous speakers and artists featured through DWF LIVE virtual events that connected **17,272** viewers.

24,600 Facebook followers, **14,000** Twitter followers, **21,000** Instagram followers, and **770** LinkedIn followers.

543 Radio stations throughout Canada aired A DAY TO LISTEN.

Reconciliation Begins With You

Our achievements would not be possible without the support of our donors. As a national charity, we rely on generous contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and others to ensure we have the funding to continue to deliver and grow our programs, campaigns, and events. Together, we are making a measurable difference and building a better Canada for generations to come!

How to support DWF

Make a one-time or monthly donation, host a third-party fundraising event or initiative, or lead your own reconciliACTION.

To discover more ways to support DWF, visit **downiewenjack.ca/support-us**.

Where do the funds go?

Every dollar raised directly supports the development of resources for DWF programming like the Legacy Schools program, our campaigns, and events that improve awareness of the ongoing impacts of residential schools and build connections throughout Canada. We are deeply grateful to all those who help make this work happen.

"For as long as I can remember, I have been troubled by the double standard the white culture in Canada accepts as "normal" when it comes to Indigenous people and communities. My wife and I recently watched Secret Path and read the associated book and were heartbroken by it. This cycle of disrespect MUST end. Supporting the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund is an important part of our efforts to try and push for justice and, hopefully, one day, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in every part of Canada."

- Stuart Heggie, Monthly Donor

Financial Overview

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	$ 1,695,233	$ 1,969,281
Accounts receivable	198,627	105,298
Inventory	30,520	59,318
Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable	67,650	83,262
	1,992,030	2,217,159
CAPITAL ASSETS	26,159	21,879
INVESTMENTS	10,369,829	6,231,012
	$ 12,388,018	$ 8,470,050
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 179,213	$ 50,902
Current portion of deferred contributions	1,043,326	680,376
	1,222,539	731,278
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS	15,000	33,500
	1,237,539	764,778
NET ASSETS		
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED	5,247,942	1,802,735
UNRESTRICTED	5,902,537	5,902,537
	11,150,479	7,705,272
	$ 12,388,018	$ 8,470,050

The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.
Charitable Registration Number: 7840 55915 RR0001

Our Partners

Champion:

Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation

RBC Foundation

Action:

Pattison

Real Canadian Superstore

The Slaight Family Foundation

Conversation:

Canada

Leah & Paul Atkinson Family Foundation

Loyalty Industry Canada

NOFRILLS

Shaw

Union

wine rack

Friend:

The Birks Family Foundation / La Fondation de la famille Birks

Externalitator Foundation

hydro one

IGM Financial

Janssen

The Joyce Family Foundation

Loblaw Companies Limited

Northbridge

nwmo

The Schroeder Foundation

SCIEX

TD Ready Commitment

The Winnipeg Foundation For Good. Forever.

Leadership Circle:

Amicus Foundation

Bryan de Lottinville

Fitzhenry Foundation

Heather & Ross Hamlin Fund

Howard Lee

The Lawrence Schafer Foundation

The Lecky Foundation

Mike Downie

Million Dollar Round Table Foundation of Canada

Moffat Family Fund

Puchniak Family Fund

The Shawana Foundation

DWF Would Also Like to Recognize:

ADP

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BigSteelBox

BrucePower

Cadillac Fairview

EllisDon

EDC

Financial Horizons Group

GWL Realty Advisors

Hudson's Bay Foundation

ibao

John Brooks Company Limited

Mawer Investment Management

McElhanney

Moneris

Nickel Brook Brewing Co.

OMNI Conversion Technologies

Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

oticon

Phillips Brewing & Malting Co.

Riverside Brass

TikTok

TMX

YLCC Lead Together.

reconciliaction leadership

action inspiration legacy

GORD DOWNIE & CHANIE WENJACK FUND

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