



2017 -2018  
ANNUAL REPORT



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# Who We Are

We are the Canadian Roots Exchange, a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth who believe that in order to bridge the gap between Canada's peoples and work towards reconciliation, we need to become educated and aware of the teachings, triumphs, and daily realities of Indigenous communities.

So, through exchanges, workshops, conferences and leadership trainings, we bring together youth in cities, towns, and traditional territories across Canada in an effort to break down stereotypes, open a dialogue, and build honest relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living on this land.



# What We Do

## Exchange Programs

Canadian Roots organizes experiential educational programs and field schools in Indigenous host communities across Canada. Our programs range from 5 days to 3 weeks. Participants have the opportunity to learn in both formal and informal settings. CRE emphasizes personal growth and leadership development through individual and group learning, and personal reflection facilitated by project coordinators, Elders and educators from each community. Through exchanges, participants engage in active, experiential learning that sheds light on Nation to Nation relationships, as well as the histories and current realities of Indigenous communities.



# Conferences

To date, Canadian Roots Exchange has hosted 4 National Youth Reconciliation Conferences in Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Sudbury. For three days, young movers and shakers from across the country come together to learn, play, and work towards improving relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth participate through youth-led workshops, intergenerational events and local excursions that place a focus on reconciliation, Indigenous history and cultural revitalization, dispelling stereotypes, health and wellbeing, and decolonization.

Canadian Roots Exchange delivers youth-led workshops that aim to raise awareness of Indigenous histories, cultures and current realities. Workshops are facilitated by Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth and help participants to dispel stereotypes, deepen their knowledge of the history including the struggles and triumphs of Indigenous peoples. Workshops can be

custom designed to meet the needs of a group and Canadian Roots Exchange has designed and delivered workshops for both youth and adults. We have designed and delivered workshops that have ranged from a few hours to 2 days.



# Programs

The Canadian Roots Exchange is a registered charity (registration number 832296602RR0001) that provides Indigenous-based leadership, learning and reconciliation experiences to every youth that participates in our programs. CRE organizes three main types of activities: exchange programs, workshops and conferences. Central to CRE programming is the need to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. Regardless of the activity, we believe that having dialogue is necessary to foster understanding and reconciliation.



## Exchanges

### **Toronto & Rankin Inlet Exchange Feb 22 to 28, 2017**

This exchange helped us strengthen our partnerships in the North and brought together 11 youth from Toronto and 14 from Rankin Inlet consisting of 18 Indigenous youth and 7 non-Indigenous. The Toronto portion of the exchange included a visit to important sites such as City Hall, The Royal Ontario Museum



and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The youth engaged in a variety of cultural and educational events from a treaty history workshop and film screening of *Colonization Road*, to learning how to throat sing, participating in an Indigenous Martial Arts Workshop and practicing their art skills with an Inuit crafting and language workshop. Overall it was a positive experience with two youth experiencing a bit of

culture shock, but were isolated from the group and received the necessary supports. This highlights the importance of ensuring adequate safety and support measures are available, particularly when dealing with Northern/remote communities.

### **Kuujuuaq & Ottawa Exchange April 14-21, 2017**

The final exchange of the year brought together 21 youth, 13 Indigenous and 8 Non-Indigenous. This exchange was a success as it provided a safe and supportive learning environment for youth, both those from indigenous as well as non-indigenous ancestry, to build healthy relationships with each other and, in doing so, practice reconciliation. Through a variety of activities, the youth were able to increase their comfort with public speaking, expand





networks of support within and between communities in which they feel safe sharing their life struggles, many of which require a healthy community of support



(e.g. struggles with mental wellness and effects of colonization), an increased sense of self-confidence and a wider view of how youth experience life in Canada.

Key partners included Nunavut Sivuniksavut and the Assembly of 7 Generations which helped to provide a well-rounded week of events from a downtown scavenger hunt and tour of parliament hill to diversity and mental health workshops. This exchange also included a day out on the land (Moose

Creek) where the youth helped clean up around the lodge in preparation for a sweat the next day. The youth received important teachings about the sweat lodge and ended the day with a long sharing circle. Finally, the exchange gave participants the space to explore art and history with visits to the National Art Gallery displaying the works of Alex Janvier and a tour of the Canadian Museum of History.

### **Saskatchewan Nursing Student Exchange**

**Oct 5-8 2017**

Heather Exner-Pirot, Strategist for Outreach and Indigenous Engagement at the College of Nursing, was very interested in taking students to tour the All Nations Healing hospital located in the Fort Qu'Appelle Valley as it is known for combining First Nations traditional healing practices and contemporary medicine. The Fort Qu'Appelle Exchange took place from October 5-8, 2017 and it was open to all students in the Health Sciences Colleges and U of S Nursing campuses throughout the province. In total, four participants were from the Saskatoon Nursing program, three were from the Regina Nursing program, two were from the College of Medicine, two were from the College of Kinesiology and lastly, three were from the College of Arts & Science working on prerequisites to apply to Health Science Colleges. One of the students had attended a previous exchange with CRE and was happy to attend this exchange as a team leader.

### **Whitehorse & Saskatoon Exchange March 22-27, 2018**

The Saskatoon-Whitehorse Exchange program began in October 2017 with recruitment and meetings with high school students from various schools across Saskatoon. The Saskatoon team hosted 14 Whitehorse youth in Saskatoon from March 22- 27, 2018. CRE workshops were presented in the ISSAC training room and lounge. The week also included an Indigenous Campus Tour of the U of S done by the Diefenbaker Canada Center and a scavenger hunt in the Biology building.



### **Saskatoon & Whitehorse Exchange**

**May 17-23, 2018**

From May 17-23, the second part of the Saskatoon-Whitehorse exchange took place. For this CRE staff took 12 Saskatoon youth aged 15-17 to Whitehorse to learn about the land and people there.



## The Gathering

Over 200 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from across Canada united on Robison Huron Territory to take part in reconciliation-based workshops, panels, keynote speeches, and community visits.

This year's conference was hosted at the main campus of Laurentian University. It is the second year that our youth conference has taken place in Sudbury. We were thrilled to return to Sudbury given the active leadership of young people in the city.



Sudbury Gathering February 6, 2018

# Spotlight

## Story Blanket Project (3-year project)

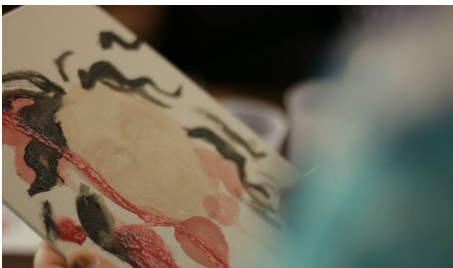
In August 2016, we trained a group of 25 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from across Canada in creative communication, and leadership skills to promote dialogue and understanding on reconciliation in their local communities.

Following this, from September 2016 to March 2017, approximately 120 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from Rankin Inlet, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Ottawa, Toronto, Rankin Inlet, Montreal, and Halifax took part in the designing and creating of the National Story Blanket. The blanket travelled from coast to coast to ensure that young people were able to contribute localised understandings and contributions to the continuous national process of reconciliation.





From September 2017 to April 2018, the Story Blanket will be featured in the same communities, however this time in its display phase. It will be showcased at public libraries, community centres, and universities. Youth leaders will host interactive events on the Story Blanket in each of the cities to ignite further conversation on youth-led reconciliation.



# CANADIAN ROOTS EXCHANGE / ECHANGES RACINES CANADIENNES

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF MARCH 31, 2018

	2018	2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 326,944	\$ 4,986
Marketable securities (note 3)	120,299	106,066
Grants receivable	60,947	25,542
Amounts receivable	35,136	93,135
HST recoverable	36,948	12,060
Prepaid expenses	<u>3,025</u>	<u>6,525</u>
	<u>\$ 583,299</u>	<u>\$ 248,314</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 121,331	\$ 64,528
Payroll source deductions payable	20,263	3,839
Deferred contributions (note 4)	<u>238,726</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	<u>380,320</u>	<u>83,367</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Designated (note 5)	125,000	125,000
Unrestricted	<u>77,979</u>	<u>39,947</u>
	<u>202,979</u>	<u>164,947</u>
	<u>\$ 583,299</u>	<u>\$ 248,314</u>

# CANADIAN ROOTS EXCHANGE / ECHANGES RACINES CANADIENNES

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

	2018	2017
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grants (note 7)	\$ 878,001	\$ 524,271
Donations	115,640	55,859
Earned income	95,492	85,699
Contributed materials and services (note 8)	44,250	54,750
Interest	<u>4,259</u>	<u>998</u>
	<u>1,137,642</u>	<u>721,577</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel	524,589	372,659
Program	291,282	84,285
Participant travel and accommodation (note 8)	153,757	121,714
Rent (note 8)	68,298	47,276
Staff travel and accommodation	27,682	15,792
Office and general (note 8)	15,335	25,482
Honoraria	13,510	10,033
Professional fees	3,638	3,670
Website	<u>1,519</u>	<u>60</u>
	<u>1,099,610</u>	<u>680,971</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR</b>	38,032	40,606
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>164,947</u>	<u>124,341</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 202,979</u>	<u>\$ 164,947</u>



## **2017-2018 staff**

**Amy Wong**—Logistics and Research Coordinator

**Candice Jacko**—Administrative Officer

**Coty Zachariah**—Marketing and Development Coordinator

**Delano Kennedy**

**Diandre Thomas**—Hart-Program Coordinator

**Erika Massoud**—Communications and Mobilization Coordinator

**Hala Sayed**

**HyunGu Kang**—Summers Programs Assistant

**Jacqueline Neshkawa**—Finance Coordinator

**jessica alegria**—Program Officer

**Kayla Webber**

**Lauren Madahbee**—Program Intern

**Leslie VanEvery**—YRI Coordinator

**Makda Dinberu**—Summers Program Assistant

**Max Fineday**—Co-Executive Director

**Nicole Wemigwans**-National Programs Manager

**Sage Petahtegoose**—Summers Program Assistant

**Sahar Golshan**—Program Manager

**Sahar Ibrahim**—TYRI Program Coordinator

**saima butt**—Program Manager

**Tawny Allison**—Program and Finance Officer

**Tristan Smyth**—Operations and Finance Manager

**Valene Bill**—Program Officer

**Vibhor Garg**—Co-Executive Director