



Share the Gifts-



Honour the Treaties

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 26, 2020

Reports

Second Annual General Meeting of
Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties

May 26, 2020

Agenda

- Welcome
- Opening ceremony
- Land recognition
- Approve minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting
- Report of the Chair
- Report of the Education Working Group
- Report of the Treasurer
- Nominating Committee report and selection of Keepers of the Circle
- Comments and contributions
- Thanks and closing
- Refreshments (DIY)

Minutes of the May 27, 2019 AGM Share the Gifts Honour the Treaties

Present: Elaine Bishop, Ko'ona Cochrane, Joy Eidse, Irene Greenwood, Kerry Saner-Harvey

Regrets: Raf, Bernadette Smith, Mary Lysecki

1. Opening- Kona opened with a song

Elaine gave land recognition

2. Report of the chair- Elaine Bishop provided chair's report. All agreed to a process of seeking unity rather than operating in a voting process. All professed unity and acceptance of the chair's report.

3. Report of the education working group - Joy Eidse provided report on the Education working group.

Mary, asked a questions regarding what was happening with the communication working group. Joy responded that the education working group had decided to divide it's time to address both education development and communication needs within the organization. Joy gave update on this work from the education working group report.

There was an expression of unity to accept the education working group report.

4. Treasurer's report - Elaine Bishop gave the treasurer's report.

All in unity to accept the report.

5. Bylaws- Elaine Bishop asked for group to accept the bylaws.

All in unity to move ahead and accept the bylaws.

6. Next keepers meeting - Discussion about a fall date for this. Education group to work on agenda for this meeting.

7. Elder's gathering - Ko'ona spoke about the National Elder's Gathering hosted by Peguis first nation and suggested Share the Gifts- Honour the Treaty consider setting up a booth there in order to get input from elders.

8. Keeper of the Circle roles - Elaine Bishop was confirmed as chair; Joy Eidse will continue as secretary; Irene Greenwood and Kerry Saner-Harvey to consider treasurer role and let group know their decision at a later date.

Report of the Chair of the Keepers of the Circle

To the Second Annual General Meeting of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties

May 13, 2020

It is an honour to be writing this report to those involved and supporting Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. Development of this organization started in 2012.

Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties is a reparations-based organization that was incorporated in Manitoba on November 7, 2017. The undertaking of the organization is:

Guided by the purposes and principles of the *United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* 'Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples ...affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with states' (preliminary statements in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action 45, 46 and 61 as a contribution towards building reconciliation: **to create an organization that enables Settler and Newcomer peoples in Canada to express their full engagement as Treaty people by making financial contributions to a fund the spending of which is controlled by Indigenous People, facilitated by the following: a) providing education enabling Settler and Newcomer peoples to learn about their roles as Treaty Peoples; b) providing opportunities for Settler and Newcomer people to honour the Treaties and participate fully as Treaty Peoples; c)providing opportunities for building relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Settler and Newcomer peoples.**

Appreciation of our relationship with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM)

As the TRCM moves from Winnipeg to Headingly it seems right to express deep appreciation for the important role it has played in developing Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. This concept was first proposed during a regional meeting of Kairos, the national churches social justice organization, at which former

Commissioner Jamie Wilson was the keynote speaker. Discussions with Commissioner Wilson resulted in his offering the Commission board room as a meeting place for the first meetings that explored developing the idea. He also arranged and hosted the first Elders' gathering in his office. An important outcome of that meeting was our decision to name the organization Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. Under the new Commissioner, Loretta Ross, the TRCM board room has remained a 'home' for our meetings, including our first annual general meeting. TRCM has always welcomed us warmly, offering hospitality and support. Thank you so much for the invaluable support you offered which has helped Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties to emerge into being! We look forward to keeping connected with you as you move to your new location.

Structure

'Keepers of the Circle' is the name that Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties has chosen for what other organizations call a Board of Directors. Throughout the development of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties we have worked with one of the challenges of trying to work across cultures. We recognized that the process of incorporation is a colonial structure. Yet for the organization to move ahead and have a bank account in Manitoba incorporation was required.

How can we attempt to de-colonize that process, especially for an organization with a vision of challenging the underlying white supremacy and genocide upon which Canada was created—justified by the doctrine of discovery and terra nullius? We observe that those ideologies continue to contribute to the on-going oppression of Indigenous Peoples in Canada today.

One of our solutions was to try to adapt our structures, and the language we use to describe them. Consequently we think in circles rather than hierarchies. Some of the resources that we have developed address these issues. However, having taken on the structure of a non-profit organization we respect the accountability that requires. We are in compliance with the annual reports required of us under Corporations Office.

Since our last AGM much of the development work for Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties has taken place in the Education Working Group which reports elsewhere in these reports. The Keepers of the Circle have met

Keepers' Circle Activities

- Since the last AGM the Keepers Circle has met eight times.
- The major focus of the Keepers' work over the past year has been supporting and contributing to the work of the Education Working Group development of the logo, website and education resources.
- We spent three days at a Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties display at the National Gathering of Elders held in Winnipeg in September. This was an amazing opportunity to share our thinking and resources with Elders and others at the Gathering. We had a basket of tobacco ties which we offered to Elders. We were honoured with hearing Elders' stories. We offered the opportunity for people to add their names to our list of those interested in Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties.
- As individuals we are finding opportunities to include Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties in presentations we are asked to make. We find interest in this work and look forward to opportunities to invite more active involvement.

Towards the future

- We are exploring ways building on the wisdom we have received to move Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties forward in a good way. Next steps include taking the messages of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties out to churches and other groups to invite Settler and Newcomer peoples to explore what it means to be an engaged member of Treaty 1 and to contribute gifts to the fund.
- We plan to focus on the following issues over the next year:
 - Developing an Elders' Circle. Wisdom from prior Elders' gatherings confirmed the rightness of creating this Circle. The by-laws assigns the responsibility of implementing this to the Keepers of the Circle.
 - Developing right ways for the Gifts Fund to be disbursed by Indigenous Peoples. Elders have reminded us that money can provide opportunity and risk. Some initial exploration of resources on the meaning of money in the context of capitalist economies and cultures are being explored. We anticipate giving this deep and challenging theme deeper exploration over the next year.
 - Exploring ways that Gifters can contribute land and sweat equity to Indigenous Peoples through Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties

Appreciations

I want to express deep appreciation to everyone who is working on and contributing their gifts to the development of this concern!

- To the Elders whose wisdom offers such a significant contribution to keeping us moving in a right way.
- With those serving as Keepers and on the Education Working Group. Especial appreciation is offered to Joy Eidse whose work as the Secretary of the Keepers and Chair of the Education Working Group has been so much appreciated and been so valuable. Joy has needed to step back and will be greatly missed!
- All of those whose words of encouragement are greatly appreciated!
- Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba for its grant which is enabling us to develop more effective ways of communicating!
- All the Gifters making financial contributions to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties.

This work is gifted by all of you! Thank you!

Elaine Bishop

Chair, Circle of Keepers

Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties AGM 2020:
Report of the Education Working Group - May 26, 2020

Initial work of the Education working group this past year was on workshop development ideas for a public launch/gathering (which has been delayed), as well as content for a display table at the National Elders Gathering last June. However, the major focus of the year became communications resourcing. *Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties* applied for and received a one-time financial grant of \$1,500 from Mennonite Central Committee towards the completion of these communication resourcing goals. Previously there was only an email group and facebook account available to those wanting to participate in STG-HTT. The key elements of this work included:

- Designing a *Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties* Logo
 - The Logo design was initially delayed due to two separate negotiations with graphic designers that didn't work out.
 - Subsequently, group member Raf Terrain has created a draft design with several ongoing variations. The Keepers of the Circle are currently in conversation regarding whether to adapt this design for the final logo.
- Designing a website layout and content
 - A contract with Carly Fraser was completed for website creation and development. Raf Terrain is assisting Carly in the design.
 - The website structure and much of the content has been completed and we are very pleased with the work done to date by Carly and Raf. The site not yet public, but hopefully soon. The education working group is in the process of reviewing the content for any additional edits, changes and images that need to be made. A significant amount of work has been done by group members in developing new content, particularly in the articulation of:
 - Our Values and organizational history
 - The meaning of reparations (in contrast to charity) and determining means to do this
 - Our Relationships with money and with Treaties
 - Land Return and Sweat Equity
 - Relationships with Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples
 - A shared google-drive folder was created using the organization's Google account to share content files for the site, as well as archive all STG-HTT meeting minutes and records.

Looking ahead:

- Upon completion of the logo, another step will include revising the current print material with the new logo design, and print copies for distribution.
- Ongoing content for the site could include blogposts and video stories of members and other individuals about their journey with reparations and decolonization.
- We also see the need to continue to look at “money” and the meaning of money.

In April, Joy Eidse--one of the original members of the Ed working group who has made valuable contributions with the record-keeping, communications, content and philosophical undergirding to STG-HTT--had to step down from the group due to work commitments. We will miss her presence and contributions but wish her the best.

- Submitted by Kerry Saner-Harvey

Financial Report

The financial statement for 2019 is included in the Annual Report

Our sources for income during 2019 were from donations and a grant. Some donations were received monthly and another was a one time donation for the year. We also received donations from those attending meetings of the Keepers of the Circle. In addition to this we received a grant from Mennonite Central Committee.

Expenses consisted of payment to the National Gathering of Elders, donations to Winnipeg Harvest, website design and logo creation. Of these payments, one cheque was outstanding at the close of the year. It has since been cashed.

Thank you to those who have contributed financially to our work - both donors and MCC. As we move ahead we will need to continue to search out ways of raising funds.

Irene Greenwood, Treasurer

Share the Gifts Honour the Treaties
2019 Year End Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Cheque Outstanding	Balance
Jan 1, 2019				1750.09
Donations	727.20			
Grant	1350.00			
Total	2090.09			
Winnipeg Harvest		162.20		
National Gathering of Elders		350.00		
ACU Membership		5.00		
Web Design		570.00		
Logo		250.00		
		1737.20		2090.09
			570.00	
Dec 31, 2019				2660.09

Nominating Report to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties

2nd Annual General Meeting

May 26, 2020

Through Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties incorporation Keepers of the Circle was identified to be the board of directors for the organization. The range of Keepers to serve at any time was a range of a minimum of five to a maximum of seven.

The terms of service identified in the Draft By-laws is for two year terms with the capacity for Keepers to be selected for up to three consecutive terms for a total of six years before leaving the Circle of Keepers.

We put forward the following nominations to serve as Keepers of the Circle for a term of two years from May 26, 2020 to the date of the fourth AGM in May 2022:

- Elaine Bishop
- Ashlyn Haglund
- Ko'ona Saber

The following Keepers will continue as elected at the 2019 AGM for a term of two years from May 27, 2019 to the date of the third AGM in May 2021:

- Mary Lysecki
- Kerry Saner-Harvey
- Rafael Terrain
- Irene Greenwood

Mary Lysecki

May 19, 2020