



SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

Reports



Sixth Annual General Meeting of
Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties
Monday September 9, 2024
7:00 pm via zoom
Draft Agenda

- Welcome and Land Recognition—Kerry Saner-Harvey
- Sacred fire and song—Ko’ona Saber
- Speaker Patty Krawec from the Nii’kinaaganaa Foundation, a Pay Your Rent organization. Patty Krawec lives in Niagara Falls ON.
 - o Questions and discussion
- Transition Ceremony to Annual General Meeting—Ko’ona Saber
- Permission to record and post
- Introductions—Elaine Bishop
- Approve minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting
- Report of the Chair of Keepers’ Circle—Elaine Bishop
- Report of the Treasurer—Michael Welsh
- Proposed Revision to the Section 3.05 of the By-laws re terms of service for Keepers’ Circle: *If conditions require it, the Circle of Keepers may recommend to the AGM that a person who has completed three terms may be nominated for additional two-year terms. Keepers would be required to explain the situation to the membership and abide by its decision.*
- Nominating Committee report and selection of Keepers of the Circle—Mary Lysecki
- Comments and contributions
- Thanks and closing
 - o Mennonite central Committee Mb for financial support
- Closing ceremony—Ko’ona Saber

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties—Annual General Meeting

Tuesday October 17, 2023 - Minutes

7:00 via zoom access

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, **Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties** exists 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. It will:

- provide education enabling Settler and Newcomer peoples to learn about their roles as Treaty Peoples;
- provide opportunities for Settler and Newcomer people to honour the Treaties and participate fully as Treaty Peoples; and
- provide opportunities for building relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Settler and Newcomer peoples.

Present: Elaine Bishop, Ko'ona Saber, Kerry Saner-Harvey, Kathryn Boschmann, Michael Welch, Irene Greenwood, Jeffrey Thiessen

Regrets: Mary Lysecki, Margaret Mullin

- Welcome by Elaine
- Opening ceremony—Ko'ona Saber opened the meeting with a healing song and a smudge for the group.
 - Elaine Bishop shared a moving and significant tribute to Kathy, a young Indigenous woman whose family is close to her who was miraculously found after a year and then very shortly after lost her life, possibly by homicide. A moment of silence was offered for her life.
- Permission to record and post – Granted by consensus
- Introductions - Welcome to guests - Jeff and former Keeper Irene.
- Land recognition – Offered by Elaine
- Approval of minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
 - Correction: Ko'ona and Elaine were approved to continue for another two-year term. Mary, Raf, Kerry and Michael would continue their existing terms as Keepers.
 - **All agreed to Approval of minutes with this correction.**
- Report of the Chair of Keepers' Circle—Elaine Bishop
 - Elaine noted that we originally tried to avoid colonial incorporation, but it was required in order to have a bank account. She also noted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 45, 46 and 61 as a foundation of our efforts. She noted efforts and progress to date and also noted that all of the Keepers Circle continue to do other work related to right relationships and justice for Indigenous peoples.

- **Report was approved by consensus.**
- Report of the Education Working Group—Kathryn Boschmann -
 - Multifaith sharing circle was an event of significance. Elder Belinda VandenBroeck shared at the event. Though time ran short, it was a good opportunity to Make connections with individuals.
 - Kerry affirmed that there were good connections made as people encountered there still express their appreciation and ongoing interest. Also he noted there was at least one opportunity to share at length at a church about STG-HTT.
 - **Report approved by consensus.**
- Report of the Treasurer—Michael Welsh
 - Reparations Fund 2022 Year end Balance: \$1,443.34
 - Operating Account 2022 Year End Balance: \$ 1,474.29
 - Full financial statement and report attached.
 - Elaine noted that we can now receive E-transfers.
 - Kerry inquired about the fiscal year and it was noted we might want to move the AGM's earlier so it is not so long since the fiscal year end.
 - **Report approved by consensus.**
- Nominating Committee report and selection of Keepers of the Circle—Mary Lysecki
 - Eliane offered an expression of appreciation for Raf, whose time with the Keepers has come to an end.
 - The following nominations were put forward and **approved by consensus** to serve as Keepers of the Circle for a term of two years from October 17, 2023 to the date of the seventh AGM in 2025:
 - Mary Lysecki
 - Kerry Saner-Harvey
 - Michael Welch
 - Kathryn Boschmann
 - The following Keepers will continue as elected at the 2022 AGM for a term of two years from September 20, 2022 to the date of the sixth AGM in 2024:
 - Elaine Bishop
 - Ko'ona Saber
- Comments and contributions -
 - Jeff asked about the process of approaching the Elders circles. Elaine noted the busyness of Elders and reviewed the three Elders consultations: Original one with Commissioner Wilson, 2017 consultation on moving forward and approval of the name, and 2019 consultation on Money at the Sandy Saulteax Spiritual Centre. From the relationship with TRCM, there is a hope to work towards a clear mechanism for distribution of the reparations fund.
- Thanks and closing
 - Elaine shared that in consultation with Elders we recognize this is spiritual work. Grounded in the relationship with the land and our four-legged friends.
 - Ko'ona offered a traveling song to close the evening.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Minutes recorded by Kerry Saner

Report of the Chair of the Keepers' Circle

Reparations—a world-wide movement

As we have slowly developed Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties over the past twelve years we have named it as a Reparations Organization. Because we mainly are active in Treaty 1 territory of Canada, the unspoken implication has been that this is reparations to Indigenous peoples in light of the need for repair for the damage of colonialism/white supremacy. Through some serendipity this past year my vision and understanding of reparations has expanded. I am delighted to say that we are part of a world-wide movement, a movement from which we can draw and contribute inspiration!

Between 1997 and 2004 I lived in Scotland. I watched with interest as Quakers, my faith community, in Scotland and Great Britain grappled with the hidden history of their involvement in and benefit from the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In 2022, in light of the harms done and benefits Quakers received that are increasingly being acknowledged, the national Quaker body made a commitment to make reparations. Through serendipity I was put in touch with a BIPOC¹ English Quaker who is part of the implementation committee. Through her I was invited to present to an online course on reparations world-wide. Through that contact a few Quakers in England, Europe, Africa, the South Pacific and Brazil spoke about reparations work for the climate crisis as well as for racism and the ramifications of the slave trade. They also heard about Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. Consequently a course participant invited me to speak at a World Plenary of Quakers held near Johannesburg, South Africa in August. So Quakers from around the world who attended the Plenary Workshop on Healing and Repairing Historical and Present Injustices heard about Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. And I got to hear about inspiring work being done in Africa, the United States of America, South America and the Pacific on reparations.

I sometimes feel discouraged at the amount of time the slow development of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties has taken. Reparations makes such obvious sense to me in the light of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples! These connections with the international work of reparations encourages me. So, too, do the words of Marie Wilson in her book *North of Nowhere: A Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner*.

May we learn the lessons of injustice, hardship, and failure, and act with determined hope for what is still possible. May we respect the worth of each and every life with its potential to make a difference. And may we hold to belief in the universally sacred

¹ BIPOC—Black, Indigenous, Person of Colour.

teaching of love, which lies at the heart of all possible reconciliation, with its power to transform everything—a life, a relationship, a country, a world.²

Our Last Year's work

What have we done in response to the four guiding directions discerned in 2021?

- Getting our name out
- Understanding and exploring money—its meaning in society, its gifts and its risks
- Land and reparations
- What does it mean to be a Treaty partner?

Direction and governance

Since the last AGM the Circle of Keepers has met seven times. An eight time we met in small working groups to develop workshops to offer.

We met all the deadlines related to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties:

- Filing our annual return with the Manitoba Government Companies Office. This is required for us to maintain our status as a non-profit corporation without which we cannot maintain a bank account.
- Filing our annual report with the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord reporting on our work on the goals we have identified to be part of the Accord.
- Created a first draft of a five year plan in response to encouragement received from the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba's (TRCM) Treaty Commissioner.
- Created a business card to help getting our name out.
- Refined vision and mission statements ensuring that the new wording works on the website.
- Slowly continue to explore the role and meaning of money in society as encouraged by our last Elders' gathering.

Outreach

In addition to the actions mentioned in the introduction:

- Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties had an information table at the We Are All Treaty People Celebration held at The Forks each third Sunday in September.
- A number of the Keepers attended a daylong workshop, *Returning Wealth*, put on by Mennonite Church Manitoba. Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties offered one of the three breakout workshops. The PowerPoint developed can be used for other presentations.
- A number of Keepers attended the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord education day. This resulted in a post to our blog.
- Two Keepers attended the first annual celebration of the Agowiidiwinan Centre, the TRCM's education centre at The Forks.
- Two Keepers were interviewed by a PhD student from the Department of Political Science of the U of California, Irvine.

² Marie Wilson, *North of Nowhere: Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner*, 2024. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, p. 339. Copyright: Marie Wilson. Used with permission.

- A Keeper spoke to a Mennonite Church congregation as part of its exploration of reparations.
- A Keeper spoke at a western regional Quaker gathering in a workshop about advocating with the national Quaker church to engage in reparations.

Growing the Reparations Fund

As stated in our undertaking as a non-profit organization: Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties 'enables Settler and Newcomer peoples in Canada to express their full engagement as Treaty people by making financial contributions to a [reparations] fund the spending of which is controlled by Indigenous People.' We also are clear that such contributions are not 'donations' as this is not charitable giving. Rather they are contributions made in recognition of the gifts Reparators experience by being Treaty partners, living here on one of the Manitoba Treaty territories.

- During this year two organizations have started making annual payments to our Reparations Fund.
- We clarified the directions for reparations contributions indicating that Reparators may, if they so choose, earmark 30% of their contributions to assist Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties with its administrative costs.
- One Keeper shared information with a provincial organization exploring offering 5% of conference registration for reparations.
- The Fund received a reparations payment from another workshop.

We did not manage everything as we had hoped

Several activities that we had wanted to happen did not take place. They remain as activities for which we still plan.

- An Elders' gathering. We continue to explore how decisions can be made for the Reparations Fund without requiring extensive work from Indigenous decision makers.
- A second multi-faith gathering.
- A membership drive. We continue to invite individuals and groups to whom we speak to become members of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties but did not initiate a membership drive.

We did receive encouragement to continue exploring a number of issues:

- What are the relationships between land back and inheritance?
- Where does the reparations as 1% of income model come from and is it enough?
- Should reparations be charity? Should Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties explore charitable status?

Thanks and continuing the work

Once again my own health required me to take some time off from this work. I am so grateful to the other Keepers, not only for their ongoing work but also for picking up and carrying more during that time! Especial thanks to Keeper Ko'ona Saber who has served now as Elder and inspiration during her six years on the Circle of Keepers! We look forward to continuing this work in relationship.

I am thankful to all individual and group Reparators for engaging in and supporting this work! And to Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba for its contribution to offsetting the costs of this AGM.

Warm thanks to Patty Krawek for bringing ideas and inspiration to this AGM. Also to all those working towards relationship based in respect, reciprocity and renewal: authors such as Marie Wilson who provide vision and education, and Elders who continue to share their teachings and wisdom. This is the work for the rest of our lives so encouragement along the way is always appreciated!

Elaine Bishop

Chair, Circle of Keepers

Financial Report

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, Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties exists 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. It will: a) provide education enabling Settler and Newcomer peoples to learn about their roles as Treaty Peoples; b) provide opportunities for Settler and Newcomer people to honour the Treaties and participate fully as Treaty Peoples; and c) provide opportunities for building relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Settler and Newcomer peoples.

Finances

The financial year for Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties is the calendar year. Consequently the financials presented to the Annual General Meeting are the financials for the year ending December 31, 2023. Contributions to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties may either go directly to the Reparations Fund, or to the Operations account as directed by the contributor. Seventy per-cent of contributions to the Operations account are transferred to the Reparations Fund at the end of each fiscal year.

Financial Statements

Attached is a statement of Fund Balances which describes funds in and out of both the Reparations Fund and the Operating Account. It provides the balance of each at the end of the financial year. Both accounts have been reconciled to bank statements as of December 31, 2023.

General Comments

New for us this year has been receiving Reparations from some organizations as well as individuals. Some Repairators re using the procedure of earmarking 1% of their annual income towards reparations and have decided to send these contributions to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties.

The biggest expense was related to the Inter-faith gathering, which included an honorarium for the presiding Elder.

Income for the Reparations Fund includes interest and the transfer of 70% of contributions to the Operating account for the 2022 year as well as reparations made in 2023. The transfer of funds from the Operating Account to the Reparations Fund took place on May 29. It was \$626.00.

Our financial policy is that Repairators may choose to designate 30% of their contributions to assist Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties with operating costs. Because the 30% of 2023 reparations was insufficient to cover all of our costs funds to cover most of the costs of the Interfaith gathering were provided from a grant from Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba for which we express thanks!

Over the year we established the capacity to receive reparations by e-banking. We continue to revise our financial policies and procedures as we slowly grow the Reparations Fund.

Finances to date seem to be sound, and we are well suited for spending on more activities that may arise over the coming months.

We express our heart-felt appreciation to all contributors to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties!

We encourage all members and supporters to consider whether they feel called to contribute to this work. Contributions to both the operating expenses and to the Reparations Fund will be warmly received.

Miigwetch,
Michael Welch
Treasurer, StG-HtT

Reparations Fund

Balance on January 1 2023		\$1,443.34
Income		
Interest	49.15	
Reparations	655.00	
2022 transfer 70% from Operating Account	626.00	
Total		1330.15
Expenses		
Reparations payments	0.00	
Balance on December 31, 2023		\$2,773.49

**Operating
Accoount**

Account		
Balance on January 1 2023		1,474.29
Income		
Reparation contributions	247.50	
Grant--MCC Manitoba	500.00	
Total income	747.50	
Expenses and Transfers		
Inter-faith gathering	526.60	
Total Expenses	526.60	
2022 Funds Transfer to Reparations Fund	626.00	
Total expenses plus funds transfer	1152.60	
Balance on December 31 2023		1,069.19

Deferred Expense--annual renewal Corporations

40.00

Proposed Revision to the Section 3.05 of the By-laws

Moved that Section 3.05 of the By-laws, Election and Term, be revised by numbering the existing clause as 3.05 (a) and adding the following as 3.05 (b) : *If conditions require it, the Circle of Keepers may recommend to the AGM that a person who has completed three terms may be nominated for additional two-year terms. Keepers would be required to explain the situation to the membership and abide by its decision.*

Nominating Report

Through Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties incorporation "Keepers of the Circle" is identified as the board of directors for the organization. The range of Keepers to serve at any time is 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 recommend, because she is a founding member and her wisdom is important to the Keepers' Circle, that Elaine Bishop be nominated to serve as Keeper of the Circle for an additional term of two years from September 9, 2024 to the date of the eighth AGM in 2026:

- Elaine Bishop

The following Keepers will continue as elected at the 2023 AGM for a term of two years from October 17, 2023 to the date of the seventh AGM in 2025:

- Mary Lysecki
- Kerry Saner-Harvey
- Michael Welch
- Kathryn Boschmann

Mary Lysecki