



SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

Reports



Working towards Settler accountability in treaty relationships through sharing the gifts that have come from living on Indigenous land.



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

Wednesday November 26, 2025

7:00 pm via zoom

Draft Agenda

- Welcome and Land Recognition—Kerry Saner-Harvey
- Permission to record and post
- Opening ceremony
- Introductions—Elaine Bishop
- Approve minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting
- Report of the Chair of Keepers' Circle—Elaine Bishop
- Report of the Treasurer—Michael Welch
- Nominating Committee report and selection of Keepers of the Circle
- Comments and contributions
- Thanks and closing
- Closing ceremony

Email: honourthetreaties@gmail.com

Website: <https://honourthetreaties.ca/>

Minutes of the 2024, 6th Annual General Meeting

September 9, 2024- 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:

- 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.

Present: Elaine Bishop, Kathryn Boschmann, Will Braun, Kevin Drudge, Carol Dyck, Linda Enns, Linda Epp-Tiessen, Karin Kirchner, Randy Klassen, Patty Krawec, Marie Loepky, Mary Lysecki, Jonathan Neufeld, Melanie Neufeld, Wally Plett, Byron and Melanie Rempel-Burkholder, Ko'ona Saber, Kerry Saner-Harvey, Peter Sawatzky, Dieter Schonwetter, Vincent Solomon, Jeffrey Thiessen, Michael Welch, Bob Wiebe, Dori Zerbe-Cornelson

Regrets: None

- Welcome and Land Acknowledgement by Kerry
- Opening ceremony—Ko'ona Saber opened the meeting with a healing song and a smudge for the group from her home.
- **Keynote Speaker** – Patty Krawec from Nii'kinaaganaa Foundation, a Pay Your Rent organization.
 - Questions and discussion
- Permission to record and post – Granted by consensus
- Introductions - Elaine invited us to take a few moments of silence to uphold Grand Chief Cathy Merrick and all of those who have been devastated by this loss.
- Approval of minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting - approved by consensus
- Report of the Chair of Keepers' Circle—Elaine Bishop
 - Elaine noted that while she is sometimes discouraged by the slow growth of StG-HtT she read Marie Wilson's book which mentioned that discouragement is not really an option. **Report was approved by consensus.**
- Report of the Treasurer—Michael Welch

- Reparations Fund 2022 Year end Balance: \$2,773.49
 - Operating Account 2022 Year End Balance: \$ 1,069.19
 - Full financial statement and report attached.
 - **Report approved by consensus.**
- Proposed Revision to the Section 3.05 of the By-laws re terms of service for Keepers' circle:
 - **Moved by** Mary Lysecki
 - **Seconded by** Michael Welch
 - 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.*
 - **Carried by consensus**
- Nominating Committee report and selection of Keepers of the Circle—Mary Lysecki
 - The nominating committee recommended, 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
 - **Approved by consensus**
- Comments and contributions -
- Thanks and closing
- Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. Minutes recorded by Mary Lysecki

Report of the Chair of the Keepers' Circle to the 7th AGM

What guides our work?

Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties is guided by two statements grounded in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons and the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC)'s 94 Calls to Action: our purpose for incorporation and our commitment through the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord (WIA):

Our incorporation purpose: 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.

Our additional commitment through the WIA:

Goal 1: related to Calls to Action 46 ii (repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery), 46 iv (renewal or establishment of Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future) and 48 (education and action to support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) to continue and expand our education work developing presentations/workshops including integrating information received through our multi-faith consultation.

Goal 2: related to Call to Action 61 (...to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal People for various purposes...) and respecting Principle #7 of the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord, to continue to explore and understand the role of money in colonization and ways of decolonizing money in the process of establishing our Reparations Fund as advised to do at our most recent Elder's consultation.

Goal 3: related to Calls for Justice for All Canadians 15.2 (decolonize by learning true history...) and 15.4 (using what learned to become a strong ally) to continue expanding our own understandings and the information on our website concerning MMIWG including seeking blog posts by those involved in MMIWG advocacy and expanding understanding of and acting on structural reparations advocacy on issues related to MMIGW.

Our Last Year's work

What have we done in response to our four guiding directions?

- 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 good Treaty partner?

Activities during the past year

This has been a slow year for the organization. However, the following activities have been undertaken:

- Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties had an information table at the We Are All Treaty People Celebration held at The Forks the second Sunday in September 2025. We distributed free copies of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with copies of the TRC's 94 Calls to Action as well as our information leaflets on Whiteness and the Meaning of Gifts.¹
- Met with Commissioner Loretta Ross of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and leaders of its Elders' Council, Elders Harry Bone and Florence Paynter.
 - Recognition of the role of the land and the sacredness of land. Also the importance of language and education.
 - Included in the discussion was support for our decision to not register as a charity. Reparations are not charitable donations.
 - Concern was expressed by one Elder that distributions of reparations go to right use—to support Indigenous groups and not support of individual benefits.
- Met via zoom with a group of Quakers in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, who are exploring how to respond to the issue of reparations.
- Created t-shirts that help us be visible! Purchased through Red Rebel Armour, an Indigenous social enterprise.
- Decided to focus on outreach—encouraging individuals and organizations to become reparators—rather than building membership.
- We started to distribute our business card to help getting our name out.



¹ Photos: Commissioner Loretta Ross [credit - Josh Paetkau/MCC]; Kerry Saner-Harvey

- Extensive discussions about developing processes for distributing the Reparations Fund, knowing that direction and decision making must come from Elders yet ensuring that all responsibility for administration from applications to distribution of funds as directed rests with Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties.
- The Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties website (honourthetreaties.ca) continues to be a major portal into this work. While the website has been quiet this year there are visions of ways to change this:
 - More blog posts—contributions always welcome!
 - Short videos or interviews on ‘what is your reparations journey?’
 - Creating a ‘faith communities’ page.
 - **What would you like to see there?**
- Individual members of the Keepers’ Circle continue working in their own spheres on these issues including using the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls Manitoba licence plate, supporting individual Indigenous women and families, and educating about Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties as possible as is done in the 2024/25 annual report of Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba.

Growing the Reparations Fund

Our undertaking as a non-profit organization states that 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 are clear that such contributions are not ‘donations’. This is not charitable giving. Reparations are contributions made to recognize the gifts reparators receive by being Treaty partners, living here on one of the Manitoba Treaty territories.

- Reparations now are being contributed by two organizations and a number of individuals.
- We clarified the directions for reparations contributions indicating that Reparators may, if they so choose, earmark some of their contributions towards the administrative costs of operating as a non-profit.
- Clarified and approved written policies for managing the Reparations Fund.
- Slowly continue to explore the role and meaning of money in society, as encouraged by our last Elders’ gathering.
- Continued to struggle with establishing an Indigenous process to direct spending from the Reparations Fund which can only be done by Indigenous Elders and without requiring extensive work from Indigenous decision makers.

Winnipeg Indigenous Accord (WIA)

Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties joined the WIA in 2021. It has broadened our perspectives by including focus of our work on the Calls to Justice of the Commission of Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People.

WIA is changing its accountability process—it now has 216 signatories so creating an annual report from all is no longer viable. So each signatory is asked to create its own

annual accountability process. Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties will include our annual accountability as part of our annual reports to the AGM.

Governance

Since the last AGM in September 2024 the Circle of Keepers has met ten times.

We met all the organizational 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.

We have been questioning whether continuing as a membership organization makes sense. Effective management of membership requires administration and resources for membership to be meaningful. Would developing membership distract from our key focus—seeking out the stories and creating the structures to facilitate Settlers taking part in reparations? While we have not introduced a by-law change laying down membership as an aspect of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties it is something we are considering. **Thoughts about this would be welcome.**

We activated a Finance Committee which developed and implemented processes for administering and tracking reparations as well as operating expenses.

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.

- Meeting with Elders to distribute funds currently in the Reparations Fund.
- Following up to continue to build the relationship with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

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?

Chair Reflections

This has been a challenging health year for me which has prevented me being as active with Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties as I would like. I am very grateful to those who have kept this work moving ahead while I have been unavailable!

I have always known that this work is a life-time's work. It was Commissioner of the TRC, Murray Sinclair who stated that it took seven generations to get to where we are today and it would take seven generations to build right relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Newcomer/Settlers.

It is important to recognize that there are many ways of individuals and organizations contributing to reparations beyond Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. After its workshop with us some Quakers in Antigonish have decided to engage with reparations in their own community. An individual potter in Winnipeg commemorates each year of Treaties 1 and 2 with creating pottery pieces in the number of the year of commemoration from clay that he personally harvests locally which he distributes at the We Are All Treaty People Celebration. Other organizations contribute to Indigenous projects other than Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties.

This is not easy work and these are not easy times to be doing this work. I continue to feel discouraged by the slow development of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties yet so appreciate the commitment of those working together on this! Personal and collective reparations make such sense to me as a contribution towards reconciliation 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! So I continue to be inspired by the words of Marie Wilson in her book *North of Nowhere: A Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner*, and to be reminded that it is not an option to stop this work:

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 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

Thanks and continuing the work

Thank you to all individual and group Reparators for engaging in and supporting this work! Thank you to those who have served on the Keepers' Circle this year who continue to keep this work alive! Thanks to the Winnipeg Quaker Meeting which has refurnished our supplies of UN Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the TRC Calls to Action as part of its and our education work. Thanks to the Indigenous Neighbours program of Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba which designates part of Kerry Saner-Harvey's time to contribute administrative and other support to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties.

Elaine Bishop

Chair, Circle of Keepers

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.

Financial Report to the 7th AGM

2025.10.27

By Treasurer Michael Welch

Finances

The financial year for Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties (StG-HtT) is the calendar year. Consequently, the financials presented to the Annual General Meeting are the financials for the year ending December 31, 2024.

Contributions to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties may either go fully to the Reparations Fund or a percentage designated towards Operating expenses, as directed by the contributor.

Following discussion during a recent finance meeting in the following financial year, as reflected in the meeting minutes of the Keepers Circle, it was decided that from now on, all major contributions be deposited directly into the Operations Account. Major contributions intended to go 100 percent to the Reparations Fund would be transferred during the year. All contributions that were intended to offer a percentage to the Operations Account for StG-HtT administrative expenses, the remaining percentage intended for reparation would be transferred collectively during a one time a year transfer to the Reparations Account.

Financial Statements

Attached is the statement of Income and Expense. It indicates contributions to both the Operations and Reparations Account of \$3782.98, grants of \$250.00, and interest from the Reparations Account of \$75.25 for a total 2024 income of \$4108.23. The expenses in 2024 came to \$854.40 (including the \$1.00 charge from the Assiniboine Credit union account). Our balance was \$3253.83.

Attached is a statement of Fund Balances which describes funds in and out of both the Reparations and the Operations Accounts. It provides the balance of each at the end of the financial year. Income for the Reparations Account includes contributions, interest and the transfer of the designated percentage of contributions from the Operations Account.

General Comments

In terms of income, we received \$3286.91 from organizations and \$746.07 from individual contributors, which is fairly substantial given where we are in the process of development and promotion. The bulk of this money went towards Reparations.

We paid a \$735 honorarium for getting Patty Krawec to present at the 2024 AGM, which was substantial for our budget, although this included a \$250 grant received from

Mennonite Central Committee. We spent \$78.40 on business cards for StG-HtT.

The 2023 contribution percentage designated to Reparations was transferred from the Operations Account to the Reparations Account on July 17, 2024. It was \$626.00. We note that the percentage of contributions designated to the Operations Account was not sufficient to cover all our operating expenses.

There were several transactions that were mistakenly deposited in the wrong accounts during the year, which is reflected in the Operations account year-end balance being greater than our actual operations working balance. These mistakes have been corrected in 2025.

We would like to thank the Reparations Fund contributors who helped cover expenses related to Elders.

Finances to date seem to be sound. 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

Funds Balance Report

for fiscal Year 2024

Reparations Account

Balance on January 1 2024		\$2773.49
Funds in		
Interest income	\$75.25	
Deposits	\$500.00	
2023 transfer from Opp to Rep	\$626.00	
Funds out		
(maintenance Service)	\$1.00	
Balance on December 31, 2024		\$3973.74

Operations Account

Balance on January 1, 2024		\$1069.19
Funds in		
contributions	\$3532.98	
Funds out		
Expenses	\$853.40	
2023 transfer to Reparations Fund	\$626.00	
Balance on December 31, 2024		\$3122.77

Statement of Income and Expense

January 1 – December 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Income		
Contributions	\$3782.98	\$835.00
Grants	\$250.00	\$500.00
Reparations Account Interest	<u>\$75.25</u>	<u>\$49.75</u>
Total Income	\$4108.23	\$1384.75
Expenses	\$854.40	\$526.60
Balance	\$3253.83	\$858.15

2025 Nominating Report to the Annual General Meeting

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 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. An amendment to the by-laws approved at the 2024 AGM allows for the nomination of Keepers to additional two-year terms beyond three consecutive terms if conditions require it.

We express our deep appreciation to Kathryn Boschmann, Keeper who is stepping down this year.

The following Keeper will continue as elected at the 2024 AGM for a term of two years from September 2024 to the date of the eighth AGM in 2026:

- Elaine Bishop

We put forward the names of these Keepers for re-nomination for further two-year terms to the date of the annual general meeting 2027:

- Mary Lysecki—fourth term (terms extended due to contribution to Keepers’ work)
- Michael Welsh—3rd term
- Kerry Saner-Harvey—fourth term (terms extended due to contribution to Keepers’ work)

During the year the Keepers appointed Timothy Friesen as a Keeper. Tim came to us through our relationship with Charleswood Mennonite Church. We nominate Tim for his first two-year term as a Keeper until the date of the AGM in 2027.

As noted above up to seven people may serve as Keepers of the Circle. We welcome other members and interested people offering to join the Keepers’ Circle to support this work.

Elaine Bishop

Chair, Keepers’ Circle

AGM report compiled by: Kerry Saner-Harvey