



Collection Access Guidelines for Indigenous Community

The Bata Shoe Museum's collections currently house Ancestor belongings that are important to their originating communities. As outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), their placement and care in museums limit the self-determination of Indigenous peoples through the continual dispossession of Indigenous communities to their cultural belongings.

The museum recognizes and acknowledges these belongings as living and breathing entities that carry and embody cultural knowledge, stories, values, and worldview belonging to the Indigenous communities of which they are from.

This guideline provides information on how Indigenous community members can access Ancestor belongings in the Bata Shoe Museum's collection. This information is not related to repatriation. For repatriation information, please refer to BSM's Repatriation Guidelines.

Visiting with Ancestor belongings at BSM

To schedule a visit with Ancestor belongings at the museum, please contact our Curator of Indigenous Collections, Justine Woods (justine.woods@batashoemuseum.ca). We recommend that you contact us at least two weeks in advance of your visit so that we can accommodate your request. Visits may be scheduled Monday through Thursday, between 10am and 4pm.

Please let us know:

- The general purpose of your visit.
- Your preferred date(s) and time(s).
- Brief details about the belongings you would like to request a visit with.

Once your request is received, we will provide you with a list of belongings in our collection with respect to your request. Due to space constraints, the number of belongings is limited to 8-10 per visit.

Access to and use of ceremonial medicines will be available throughout the duration of your visit.