

Press Release

Article Headline

Manitoba 150 Announces Partnerships to deliver Blanket Exercises

Teaser

Manitoba 150 partners with 3 Manitoba organizations to provide 50 Blanket Exercises across the Province

Tweet

- MB150 partners for 50 acts of reconciliation. @Manitoba150 #MB150
- The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, Conseil Jeunesse Provincial will offer a total of 50 virtual Blanket Exercises. @Manitoba150 #MB150
- MB150 to increase capacity of Blanket Exercise facilitators in Manitoba. @Manitoba150 #MB150

Article Body

WINNIPEG, June 21, 2021

In partnership with APTN, and in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day, Manitoba 150 is making 50 virtual Blanket Exercises available across the province. The 50 exercises will be offered to members of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, and Conseil Jeunesse Provincial.

"Manitoba 150 is grateful for the opportunity to share these meaningful, free activities to engage Manitobans in understanding the Indigenous experience in Canada and the lasting effects of colonialism," said Monique LaCoste and Stuart Murray, co-Chairs of Manitoba 150. "As a province, it is important that we embrace every opportunity to further enrich the ongoing dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and all Manitobans to move forward on the path to reconciliation."

The virtual "Blanket Exercise" was developed by KAIROS in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators, to inspire communities to engage in truth sharing, dialogue, and a chance to take strength from the past. Each is an opportunity to build more understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

"APTN is proud to support an initiative that raises awareness on the continuing injustices and impacts of colonization on Indigenous Peoples," says APTN CEO Monika Ille. "On the path to reconciliation, the virtual exercise encourages positive relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples and brings people together in the spirit of community and solidarity at a time when we need it most."

Using virtual icons to represent the land, facilitators walk participants through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization, and resistance. Deeply emotional and highly educational, the Blanket Exercise fosters understanding and empathy. One of the essential elements of celebrating the 150th anniversary of Manitoba joining Canada is to engage Manitobans in conversation about diversity and reconciliation.

"We all have so much to learn and this is an opportunity to have a deeper, more personal understanding of our collective history," said Cathy Cox, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage. "It is my hope that efforts such as these can help us build bridges between cultures and take strides towards reconciliation."

As a result of this partnership, KAIROS will increase their capacity and train additional exercise facilitators with the hope that more organizations across Manitoba will be inspired to offer these Blanket Exercises more broadly.

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By offering these exercises through the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Conseil Jeunesse Provincial, we hope the professionals who attend will carry forward the momentum of reconciliation to their large networks. We aim to heighten awareness of the Blanket Exercise and encourage communities to continue to offer these meaningful discourses beyond Manitoba 150.

Thank you to APTN, the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, and Conseil Jeunesse Provincial for helping share this opportunity.

About the KAIROS Blanket Exercise

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise program is a unique, participatory history lesson – developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators – that fosters truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. The KAIROS Blanket Exercise covers more than 500 years in an experiential workshop that aims to foster understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. Everyone is actively involved as they use specific background icons that represent the various historical and current experiences of First Nations, Inuit and later Métis Peoples. This program is highly regarded by Indigenous leaders across Canada and was selected for its unique and collaborative approach to fostering awareness and education.

About the Manitoba 150 Host Committee

The year 2020 will mark 150 years since Manitoba became Canada's fifth province, the only province to enter Confederation through the leadership of the Metis Nation. The Manitoba 150 Host Committee Inc. (Manitoba 150) is an independent, not-for-profit organization overseeing commemorative activities in celebration of our province, its beauty, people, culture, and history throughout 2020.

Manitoba 150 supports initiatives and events that cultivate pride in our province, foster a profound connection with our diverse cultures and, above all, unite us in celebration.

Additional information on Manitoba 150 can be found at www.Manitoba150.com.

Contacts

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