



## Overview

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) is a national museum dedicated to the evolution, celebration and future of human rights. It is the first national museum in Canada to be built outside the National Capital Region. Located in the heart of Canada in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the CMHR rises from the Prairie earth at The Forks, which has been a meeting place for over six thousand years.

The CMHR delivers an immersive, interactive and memorable experience for visitors of every background, age and ability. Each visitor has access to a fully reinvented museum experience that reflects a design approach that sets new Canadian and world standards for inclusion and universal accessibility.

We are seeking talented individuals who are motivated to share their passion and commitment to join our team. Together, we aim to enhance the public's understanding of human rights, to promote respect for others, and to encourage reflection and dialogue.

## Short Term Contract Opportunity

Title:	Conservation Technician, 12 weeks (Indigenous candidates only)
Number of Positions available:	3
Project:	<i>Witness Blanket</i>
Location:	Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Dates:	June 2021 – January 2022

## Position Profile:

Working under the oversight of the Conservator under contract and CMHR staff, the successful candidates will:

- Assist with or observe conservation treatments for the *Witness Blanket* guided by the Canadian Conservation Institute, as well as onsite CMHR staff and the Conservator under contract.
- Document updates (photography or condition reports) as they relate to the conservation work.
- Conduct in-gallery public speaking and interpretation of conservation work with Museum visitors during public hours.
- Learn about preservation of intangible and tangible heritage, co-operative and stewardship models, and community relations as they relate to the field of conservation.
- Enhance their knowledge of Indigenous topics through the context of reconciliation.

## Additional Tasks (as work on the *Witness Blanket* permits):

- Preventive conservation tasks in core galleries, including environmental monitoring, gallery checks and display maintenance.



- Assistance with condition reporting, cataloguing and rehousing additional Stories (objects) from the *Witness Blanket*.
- Condition reporting, cataloguing and rehousing of the Sacred Bundle, the Legacy Archive Collection of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NI-MMIWG).

All tasks will be carried out in accordance with health directives specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, including any necessary quarantine period (to be considered as part of term of contract) and engagement with visitors. Social distancing, face coverings (masks), physical barriers, etc. will be used as required to ensure compliance with federal and provincial health guidelines.

#### **Additional Details:**

The *Witness Blanket* is a collaborative artwork inviting persons of diverse backgrounds to engage, learn and work on the project.

Priority will be given to candidates who hold training in the fields of Conservation and/or Collections Management, with a demonstrated skill set in conservation. **These positions are reserved for candidates who identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit).**

All candidates must complete compulsory Respectful Workplace training and other Human Resources training as required. This training can be completed whilst quarantining if the successful candidates are from out-of-province.

Respecting the difficult subject matter communicated by the *Witness Blanket*, and the possible mental toll from daily interaction with these Stories, the successful candidates will have access to Indigenous Elders for ceremony, guidance and support. As well, an on-site culturally safe space will be made available for smudging and self-care.

#### **Background:**

The *Witness Blanket*, a monumental art installation by master carver Carey Newman, features over 800 pieces reclaimed from residential schools and donated by Survivors, churches and government representatives throughout Canada. It stands as a tangible framework for conversations about truth-telling and reconciliation. For detailed information, please visit <https://humanrights.ca/exhibition/the-witness-blanket>.

In 2019, Newman and the CMHR forged an agreement which outlines parameters for its lodging, protection and display. The stewardship agreement was ratified through both Western legal contract law and Indigenous traditions, and vests rights within the *Witness Blanket* itself as a legal entity that carries the Stories of Survivors. The agreement ensures that the *Witness Blanket* is cared for by the CMHR in a collaborative stewardship with the artist and additional Story Keepers, respecting Indigenous cultural traditions and protocols in its care and preservation.

The CMHR has partnered with Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) on this project. Together, in direct consultation with the artist and those who collaborated with him in the *Witness Blanket's* creation, we have assessed potential conservation treatment needs, and are developing a long-term plan for display, storage and travel. Following the assessment, the conservators of CCI will be guiding treatments, with



the support of the Conservator under contract and in discussion with the artist and his team, to be done by onsite CMHR staff and the Conservation Technicians (contract).

The *Witness Blanket* is on public display for a temporary exhibition which launched in April 2021. Portions of the treatment is completed in gallery for public viewing, supported by exhibition content on the preservation and stewardship of the artwork. This temporary exhibition is paired with a second installation within the same gallery space, a complementary travelling exhibition titled *Artivism*, which considers the work of artists, or activists who use art as their method for communication and activism.

The CMHR, with generous funding from TD Bank and The Winnipeg Foundation, would like to share this unique preservation experience with Indigenous candidates with training in the fields of conservation and/or collections management.

#### **Compensation:**

The successful candidates will be remunerated at \$22.25/hour, based on a 37.5 hour week, for a total compensation of \$10,000.00 for the 12-week term. For candidates who live outside of Winnipeg, the cost of air travel (flight) will be funded.

The successful candidates are responsible for locating their accommodation in Winnipeg, and for covering all accommodation and costs of living while in Winnipeg.

#### **Conditions of contract:**

- Security Screening Level – Reliability Status
- Child Abuse Registry Check

#### **Application procedure:**

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and résumé through CMHR's Careers page at <https://humanrights.ca/about/careers> by **June 23, 2021**. In these documents, clearly outline your training and experience within the fields of conservation and/or collections management. This position necessitates residing in Winnipeg, Manitoba for the duration of the contract; please acknowledge such in your application.

The CMHR is committed to developing a work environment and recruitment processes that are inclusive and barrier-free. Please advise the HR representative if accommodation measures must be taken to enable you to apply and be assessed in a fair and equitable manner.

If contacted about this job posting, please advise us if you require any accommodations regarding the interview process.

The Conservation Technician (contract) positions have been generously supported by the TD Ready Commitment and The Winnipeg Foundation.