

Appendix IV: Bentwood Box Items

This list features just a few of the hundreds of items that were placed in the Bentwood Box during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's national events. Click on the item names to view a digital copy of the item. Please consult the NCTR archives for any requests related to the usage of the records.

Please review the items and their information in advance and ensure that your students are prepared for the topics that may be discussed. Ensure they have any necessary background knowledge and are alerted for anything that may be triggering.

When browsing the NCTR archive, remind students that the items placed in the Bentwood Box each carry deep significance. The meaning of each item is not something we can fully understand from the outside. It is a meaning that is lived, experienced, and passed down within the communities from which they come.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Archival Description</i>
Banner in memory of Mrs. Nora Bernard [English]	Banner in memory of Mrs. Nora Bernard presented at the Atlantic National Event. The tribute recognizes Nora Bernard as an Indigenous activist and residential school Survivor whose campaign for Indigenous rights inspired nationwide Indigenous class action litigation that lead ultimately to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.
Beechwood Cemetery Statement of Reconciliation [English]	A Statement of Reconciliation from Beechwood Cemetery stating that the work done by Doctor Peter Henderson Bryce and his report titled "The Story of a National Crime Being an Appeal for Justice to the Indians of Canada" embodies the spirit of reconciliation. The statement also mentions that the Cemetery will erect a Great Canadian Profile Marker near Bryce's grave.
The Government of Canada's Residential Schools Apology [Bilingual]	John Duncan, Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, submitted these items to the Bentwood Box during the Atlantic National Event on October 29, 2011.

Name	Archival Description
Expression of Reconciliation from Carolyn Bennett [Bilingual]	Bentwood Box submission includes a copy of Private Members' motion No. 402 which called for the implementation of the TRC's Interim Report recommendations concerning education about residential schools. Dr. Carolyn Bennett placed this motion before the House of Commons on June 21, 2012 and it was explained that the Government of Canada denied consent for the item to proceed as a motion so it will not be debated in the House of Commons.
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Mohawk	Helen Gabriel and Hilda Nicholas submitted these items to the Bentwood Box during the Quebec National Event on April 27, 2013.
Expression of Reconciliation from the Sikh Community of Canada [English]	Items submitted by the Sikh Community of Canada at the British Columbia National Event on September 21, 2013.
Expression of Reconciliation from National Association of Friendship Centres [Bilingual]	Representing The National Association of Friendship Centres, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Winnipeg Boldness Project, Community Foundations of Canada, Inspirit Foundation, Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, Vancouver Island University, and SmartSaver, Stephen Huddart and Diane Roussin submitted these items to the Bentwood Box during the Ottawa Closing Event on June 1, 2015 at Ottawa, Ontario.
Letter from "We the Elders" [English]	Document states: "We the elders of Long Plains First Nation request chief and council to fight for loss of use and take all necessary action to receive our rights to land claims." The first and second page contain the signatures of elders. <i>2 pages, photocopied.</i>
Documents on "Window to the Future" Stained Glass [Bilingual]	Descriptions in French and English of the Giniigaaniimenaaning or "Looking Ahead" stained glass window by artist Christie Belcourt. This window is located in the Parliament building and depicts Canada's relationship with Indigenous people.
Letter of intent from Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Guy Berthiaume [Bilingual]	A framed letter of intent dated June 1, 2015 from Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, addressed to the Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Berthiaume acknowledging the role played by Library and Archives Canada by contributing records to the commission, to continue to facilitate access to its holdings in the future, and to work with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Name	Archival Description
Assemblée nationale du Québec Statement of Support [French]	A framed copy of a motion adopted unanimously by the Assemblée nationale du Québec on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 in support of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
Young Women's Christian Association Canada's Framed Statement of Reconciliation [Bilingual]	A framed copy of Young Women's Christian Association Canada's commitment to reconciliation. Statement lists YWCA Canada's commitments which include strengthening partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, developing succession plans for leadership positions, working to end violence against Indigenous women, develop programs for Indigenous girls and young women, and working to end homelessness of Indigenous girls and women.
Statement of Reconciliation from Canada's Big City Mayors [Bilingual]	A framed copy of the "Statement of Reconciliation from Canada's Big City Mayors" outlines this organization's commitment to reconciliation.