

# The Winnipeg Foundation's Centennial Institute

## Commentary on Creation and Mandate

**THE** Winnipeg Foundation is an embodiment of local history. Our founder, William Forbes Alloway, came to Manitoba in 1870 as a member of the Wolseley Expedition. During the following years, he and his wife Elizabeth enjoyed a full life as active participants in Winnipeg society, prompting the creation of Canada's first community foundation in 1921 with these words:

**“Since I set foot in Winnipeg fifty one years ago, Winnipeg has been my home and has done more for me than it ever may be in my power to repay. I owe everything to this community and I feel that it should derive some benefit from what I have been able to accumulate.”**



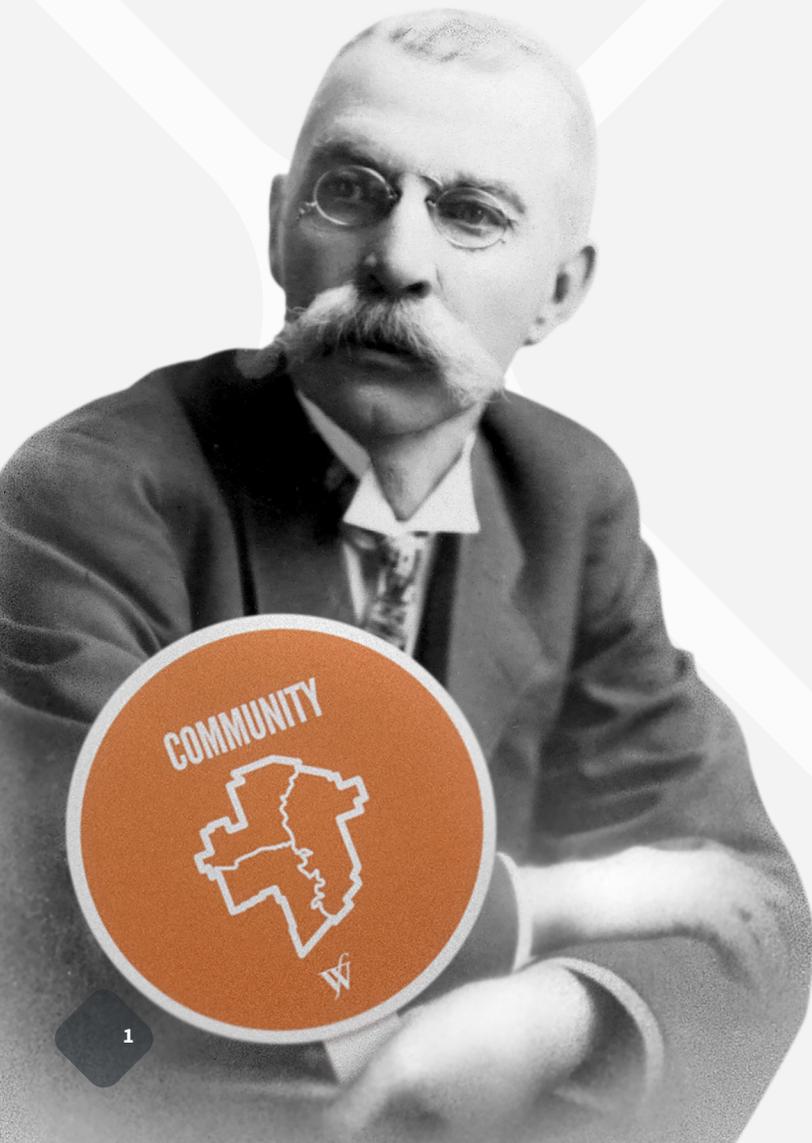
Giving back to your community is a common characteristic of legacy building. Today, The Winnipeg Foundation holds thousands of endowment funds that were created by people from all walks of life who, like William and Elizabeth Alloway, had or have deep roots in our community. Each fund has a unique story and each donor has some compelling reason to give. In the end, every gift to The Winnipeg Foundation celebrates an important relationship that has shaped our city's history.

In their book: *Structures of Indifference*, Professors McCallum and Perry describe Winnipeg at the time our Foundation was created in the following words: “Capitalists boasted of Winnipeg's industrial potential and labour radicals argued for a society based on human needs, not profits, but Indigenous people were rarely included in the discussion”. Today, a century later, The Winnipeg Foundation sees reconciliation as a priority and therefore giving voice to Indigenous perspectives on our history is an important element of this initiative.

Winnipeg is a city built on immigration and the diversity of its population includes many traditions. Mutual respect requires an understanding of our heritage that reaches to all parts of the world. The creation of a civil society, the importance of human rights as part of our collective identity and the underlying philanthropic values that characterize our city and province are all important elements based in the past that have relevance to the present.

Each year, millions of dollars are distributed to worthy charitable endeavours because of the generosity demonstrated by people in the past. The Centennial Institute pays tribute to this remarkable legacy by supporting those with interest in the life and times of earlier generations. It represents the opportunity to not only tell the story of Canada but also to include the heritage of all Canadians and the many diverse social and cultural backgrounds that shape our national identity.

**On November 8, 2019, the Board approved the creation of The Winnipeg Foundation Centennial Institute; on April 14, 2021, the Strategic Initiatives Committee approved the policies that will guide its future activities.**





## Steering Committee Defines Direction

Steering Committee conversations have focused on encouraging more diverse voices and perspectives to not only tell the story of Canada but also to include the heritage of all Canadians and the many diverse social and cultural backgrounds that shape our national identity. The Steering Committee shares a very strong commitment to supporting Canada's journey toward truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Discussions have also emphasized the importance of acknowledging that Canadians know and experience different "truths" and that the study of History can construct bridges of understanding that can play an important role in community building.

**Our Vision: Vibrant communities because stories are heard, histories examined and truths respected.**

**Our Mission: To enrich the study of History by supporting:**

- An encouraging environment for graduate students;
- Research, archiving and story telling related to the contributions of diverse communities as well as efforts aimed at reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous people;
- Collaboration between heritage institutions;
- Events that inform the public; and
- Opportunities that enhance Manitoba's academic reputation and build strength amongst the professionals working in the heritage field.

## The Centennial Institute values:

- Education, dialogue and informed opinion;
- An acknowledgement that while the discipline of History has been misused in the past, for example, to support programs of assimilation directed against Indigenous peoples, it can also empower the future betterment and well-being of communities;
- A recognition that local, national and global histories have shaped Canadian society;
- Collaborative approaches aimed at giving equitable access to diverse perspectives;
- An understanding that healthy communities are rooted in the stories and archives that make up our shared history; and
- An appreciation that because of our shared ecology, history is shaped by factors that place humans in the context of all living things. Community Grants: The first round of community grants proved to be a learning opportunity.

**Centennial Institute Steering Committee members are:** Richard Frost (Chair), James Hanley (Vice Chair), Stan McKay (Elder), Janis Thiessen (JMP Chair), Greg Bak, Jennifer Dueck, Joy Loewen, Maureen Matthews, Phi Vu Nguyen and Karen Sharma. History Department Heads from U of M Tina Chen (2020), Roisin Cossar (2021) and from U of W Mark Meuwese were also active participants.

## Centennial Institute Community Grants

The following organizations received \$15,000 grants for projects that embellish appreciation of Manitoba's history from diverse perspectives:

- National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada
- African Communities Of Manitoba Inc.
- Winnipeg Chinese Cultural And Community Centre Corporation
- Nor'West Co-Op Community Health Centre, Inc.
- Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba Inc.
- Yellowquill College Inc.
- The Wrench The Winnipeg Repair Education And Cycling Hub Inc.
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM)
- St. Amant Foundation Inc.
- Women's Health Clinic Inc.
- Darlingford School Heritage Fund
- Manitoba Historical Society

## Study Allowances

During the current 2020/21 school year, 18 graduate students participating in the Joint Master's Program offered by the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg responded to a questionnaire. They reported that on average, the cost of one year in the program amounts to \$18,800 of which approximately \$5,500 is paid in university fees.

We learned that 8 of these students graduated from a Winnipeg High School; 4 from a Manitoba High School outside of Winnipeg and 6 are from out of Province. Most students are focused on Canadian or Indigenous History. While 8 are researching a major paper or thesis, 10 are in the Archives stream. The students provided a variety of feedback and were widely agreed that having two university faculties working together added significant strength to the program. Each received a \$500 study allowance to assist with their day to day costs.

## First Recipient of PhD Award

Karen Brglez, received her M.A. from the University of Manitoba/University of Winnipeg Joint Master's program in 2014. Her thesis, "Canada at the End of the Cold War: The Influence of a Transatlantic 'Middle Power' on German Unification," focused on Canadian foreign policy at the end of the twentieth century. She completed her B.A. at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, B.C.

Since 2015, she has been employed as a research assistant for German-Canadian Studies at the University of Winnipeg where she has conducted research in the fields of Migration, Oral, and Canadian history. As one of her projects, she examined the roots of German-Canadian historiography by looking at the life of Gottlieb Leibbrandt, a German from the Ukraine that joined the Nazi party in the 1930s. She incorporated this work into a chapter in "Being German-Canadian: History, Memory, and Generations" set for publication this spring.

For her Ph.D. she plans to explore how German Lutheran settler communities in Saskatchewan contributed to the colonization of the Canadian prairies in the late nineteenth century. Her work will investigate how German migrants acquired land and citizenship in the Northwest and how their settlements impacted surrounding Indigenous communities. This project aims to make a contribution to the growing scholarship on migrant communities and settler colonialism in Canadian history.



**"I am incredibly honoured to receive this Fellowship from The Winnipeg Foundation. I am deeply appreciative of the support from the Foundation to help me further my studies in western Canadian history."**

- Karen Brglez

The Winnipeg Foundation Centennial Scholarship for Doctoral Studies in Canadian History provides \$100,000 over three years.

# Centennial Institute – Graduate Scholarships in History

## Master's Level - First Year:

**Winnipeg Foundation Award for Master's Studies in Canadian or Indigenous History** is offered annually to three full time entry level students whose proposed course work or research will focus on Canadian or Canadian Indigenous History. The award provides \$17,500 and is not renewable.

## Master's Level - First or Second Year:

**The W.L. Morton Manitoba History Scholarship** celebrates Manitoba's 150th anniversary and is paid to a student who graduated from a Manitoba high school and is now conducting historical research into the history of Manitoba or an element of Canadian history that directly relates to Manitoba. The award currently provides \$7,000 annually.

**The Asper/Paterson Master's in History Scholarship** provides support to a student pursuing study and research through a thesis, major paper or assigned comprehensive reading program focused on human rights and social justice. This is a \$7,500 award.

**The Winnipeg Foundation Indigenous Archivist Award** provides support to an Indigenous student whose study of Canadian History is focused on the preservation of past knowledge through the archival stream of the Joint Master's Program. This award provides \$17,500 and may be renewed once.

**The Friends of Our History Awards** reinstates the five original scholarships presented by The Winnipeg Foundation (before the Centennial Institute was created). These \$3,000 awards are available to any JMP student with a preference to those whose area of study is focused on Manitoba.

**The Manitoba Graduate History Award** is available to students who graduated from a Manitoba High School and who are now pursuing a Master's degree in History through the Joint Master's Program. Three scholarships are available annually currently providing \$6,000.

## Master's Level - Second Year:

**The Winnipeg Foundation Indigenous History Scholarship** supports critical and Indigenous-centred research and education about Indigenous history in Canada through a thesis, major paper or archival studies. This is a \$7,000 scholarship.

**The Elizabeth Alloway History Scholarship** supports a student conducting research on how women have shaped the history of Canada. This award provides \$7,000 annually.

**The Martha Donovan History Scholarship** supports a student conducting historical research in the areas of medicine and health broadly defined to include physical, mental and social well-being as well as preventing disease and prolonging life through the efforts of public institutions, community organizations and private individuals. This scholarship provides \$8,500 annually.

**The Winnipeg Foundation Black History of Canada Scholarship** supporting a student interested in this perspective of our country's heritage. This is a \$7,000 annual scholarship.

**The Moffat Family Scholarship in Social History** supports a student interested in how Canadian society has evolved and whose focus is on the movements, the institutions or the individuals that have worked to achieve greater equity and social justice in Canada. This award provides \$7,000 annually.

**The Barry Foundation Scholarship on the History of Canadian-American Relations** provides support to a student studying some aspect of how two nations have successfully managed their neighbourly relationship for so many decades. This award currently provides \$6,000 annually.

**The Richard L Frost Scholarship on the History of Philanthropy** supports a student conducting research on how the well-being of local communities or Canadian society in general has been advanced by generous individuals, specific charitable agencies or social movements within the broadly defined voluntary sector. This award currently provides \$6,000 annually.

**The James Richardson & Sons Limited Scholarship on Business History** supports a student who is examining the impact of business on Canadian society with a preference for family businesses but may also include the study of firms, executives or entrepreneurs or broader issues like the history of government regulation. This award provides \$7,000 annually.