

# The Witness Blanket



The *Witness Blanket* is a powerful art installation created by master carver Carey Newman to recognize the atrocities of the residential school era, honour the children and symbolize ongoing reconciliation.

Inspired by a woven blanket, this cedar-framed artwork is made of hundreds of items from Indian residential schools, Survivors, churches, governments and cultural sites across Canada. Each item tells a story of loss, strength, resilience and pride.

The *Witness Blanket* is permanently on display at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) in Winnipeg, Manitoba after having toured across Canada for three years. Two reproductions have been created to offer to other venues, allowing the Blanket's Stories and messages to continue to be shared. In these wood-framed reproductions, direct-printed wood panels take the place of the original artifacts and interior frames.

### Space requirements

100 to 140 square metres (1,100 to 1,500 square feet) with sufficient wall space to display six large didactic panels. The installation is 12 metres (40 feet) long.

### Components

- Reproduction of the *Witness Blanket*, plus six didactic wall panels and an eight-minute documentary film.

### Digital components

- The website [witnessblanket.ca](http://witnessblanket.ca) allows visitors explore stories carried by the *Witness Blanket*, and provides a resource guide as well as a teacher guide.
- Remote AV/IT support is available.
- Additional versions of the documentary film (45 minutes and 90 minutes) about the making of the *Witness Blanket* are available.
- A video trailer is also available for promotional purposes.
- Sample news release, ad copy and social media posts available upon request.

### Venue requirements

- Provision of two to three installation technicians. Security on site during public access for exhibition safekeeping.
- Requires a clean, pest-free exhibition space. No specific temperature or humidity requirements.



### Duration

Six-week suggested minimum.

### Rental fee and admission policy

- No exhibition rental fee is charged. Venues are responsible for incoming shipping costs and are required to provide a certificate of insurance for the full value of the exhibition (\$70,000).
- Venues are not permitted to charge admission specific to this exhibition. Visitors who identify as Indigenous must be granted free access, including waiving general admission charges.

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For more information, or to subscribe to the CMHR's travelling exhibition mailing list, please email [travellingexhibitions@humanrights.ca](mailto:travellingexhibitions@humanrights.ca).

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) uses innovative storytelling to promote thought and conversation about the importance of human rights for all. One of Canada's six national museums, it is located in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

