



The **Witness Blanket**



The *Witness Blanket* is a powerful art installation created by master carver Carey Newman to recognize the atrocities of the Indian 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 other cultural sites across Canada. Each item tells a story of loss, strength, resilience and pride.

The *Witness Blanket* is currently undergoing conservation at the CMHR. A true-to-scale reproduction has been created for offer to other venues, allowing its Stories and messages to continue being shared. In this wood-framed reproduction, photographic 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

- **Core exhibition option:** reproduction, six didactic wall panels and eight-minute film.
- **Enhanced exhibition option:** includes additional artifacts (school bell, framed school sweater, school bench, metal bowl, school dormitory headboard, and school desk and stool).

Digital components

- A mobile app that explains each item in the *Witness Blanket* is available for visitors.
- An optional “Reflection Wall” interactive, where visitors can share their own thoughts. Can be presented via computer/tablet or via projection. Hardware and install to be provided by venue.
- Remote AV/IT support is available.
- Two documentary films (45 minutes and 90 minutes) about the making of the *Witness Blanket*. 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.
- The core exhibition option requires a clean, pest-free exhibition space. No specific temperature or humidity requirements.
- The enhanced exhibition option requires a climate-controlled exhibition space with 24/7 on-site security. Venues choosing this option must provide a General Facility Report for CMHR approval.

Duration

Six-week suggested minimum. The tour is currently booking into 2022-23.

Optional services

Exhibition layout design services can be provided by the CMHR for an additional cost.

Rental fee and admission policy

- No exhibition rental fee is charged. Venues are responsible for incoming shipping costs.
- Venues are not permitted to charge admission specific to this exhibition. Visitors who identify themselves as Indigenous Peoples must be granted free access, including waiving general admission charges.

For more information, or to subscribe to the CMHR’s travelling exhibition mailing list, please e-mail 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.

