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GORD  
**DOWNIE & WENJACK**  
FUND  
CHANIE

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019 - 2020**

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) operates programs all across Turtle Island. The DWF office is located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We acknowledge that the area is covered by Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and is located within Dish with One Spoon Territory.





## MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILIES

Chi miigwetch, thank you, for joining the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund in this important work towards reconciliation.

When our families embarked upon this journey, we never imagined that Gord's telling of Chanie's story would create a national movement that would help to bring us together to further reconciliation.

We are so inspired by the incredible work happening across the county; in your classrooms, in your homes, in your communities. Positive change is happening – the next generation of young Canadians will understand the true history of Indigenous peoples in Canada; including the horrific truths of what happened in the Residential School system, and the strength and resilience of Indigenous culture and peoples.

It is our belief that this will help to build a more just and equitable Canada; a Canada that both Gord and Chanie would be proud of. There is much work ahead of us, but together, we are stronger.

On behalf of both the Downie & Wenjack families -- Chi miigwetch, thank you.

Mike Downie & Harriet Visitor  
Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

**"Positive change is happening - the next generation of young Canadians will understand the true history of Indigenous peoples in Canada."**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## Sarah Midanik

Thank you, marsi, to our supporters, partners, and community for continuing to walk the journey of reconciliation with us. We are thrilled to present this year's Annual Report to reflect on and celebrate all we have achieved together.

In 2019, we saw tremendous growth in our Legacy Schools and Legacy Spaces programs. Our events brought Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities together in amazing ways, and we saw the return of Secret Path Live to Roy Thomson Hall during Secret Path Week for a truly special evening of resilience, love, and reflection.

This report outlines the work done between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020. Reflecting back on 2019 feels like looking back at a time so very different from our present reality. It is an important reminder of the impact DWF has on young people, organizations, and communities—and how our work ultimately serves to bring us closer together. Our ability to adapt, our grit and determination, and the importance of our mission will guide us through this pandemic. We are stronger together. The coming year will bring with it crucial events, growth and opportunities - none of which would be possible without you.

Thank you for being part of our collective journey on the path toward reconciliation, and I look forward to being together again soon.

Truly, miigwetch/thank you for your continued support. We truly are stronger, together.



Sarah Midanik  
President & CEO  
Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund



**"It is an important reminder of the impact DWF has on young people, organizations, and communities - and how our work ultimately serves to bring us closer together."**



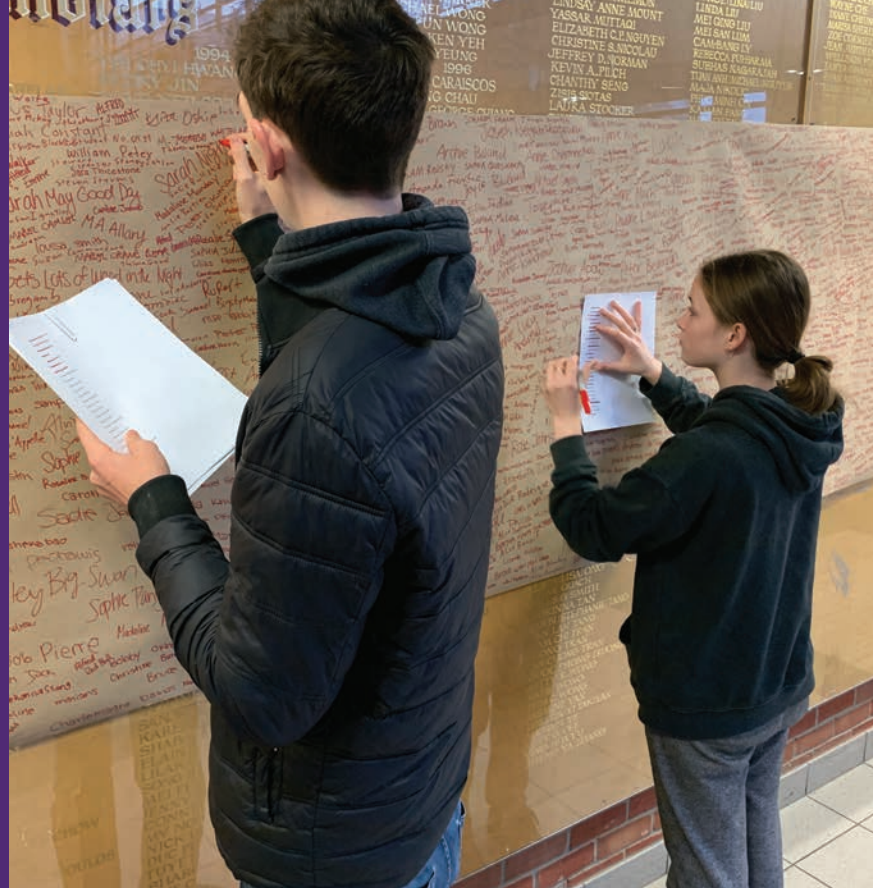
# OUR PURPOSE

## Mission

Inspired by Chanie’s story and Gord’s call to build a better Canada, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) aims to build cultural understanding and create a path toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

## Vision

Improving the lives of Indigenous people by building awareness, education, and connections between all Canadians.



## Our Core Values



### People: Community Led.

Programming co-designed with Indigenous communities and leaders in order to achieve the stated objectives of Awareness, Education, Connection, and Action.



### Collaboration: Reciprocal Partnerships.

DWF is an organization with the power to convene leaders, create impactful partnerships, and engage with those no matter where they are on their reconciliation journey. Collaborating increases support and awareness of both DWF and our partners, as well as delivering upon our collective goals and mission.



### Empowering: Leveraging our Strengths.

DWF responds to the issues and solutions identified by Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities on the path towards reconciliation by leveraging our strengths to convene, influence, elevate, and innovate solutions.



### Quality: Improving Impact & Outcomes.

DWF will continually refine our programs to ensure that they align with our mission and are the optimal way to deploy resources.



# OUR CREATION STORY

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) was created out of two families coming together to make a change, uphold Chanie and Gord's legacies, and create a pathway on the journey toward reconciliation.

DWF is part of musician Gord Downie's legacy and embodies his commitment, and that of both the Downie and Wenjack families, to call Canadians to action in solidarity with Indigenous peoples of this land. The goal of DWF is to continue the conversation that began with Chanie Wenjack's Residential School story, and to support the reconciliation process through awareness, education, and connection.

## Chanie Wenjack

Chanie Wenjack was born on January 19, 1954 on the Marten Falls First Nation Reserve, also known as Ogoki Post, a remote Indigenous community located in Northwestern Ontario.

Chanie grew up in Ogoki Post for the first nine years of his life with his parents, sisters and two dogs. At age 9, Chanie, along with three of his sisters, were sent to Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School in Kenora, Ontario.<sup>1</sup> Children from 17 reserves in Northern Ontario and Manitoba attended Cecilia Jeffrey.<sup>2</sup>

At the age of 12, Chanie ran away from the Residential School, attempting to reunite with his family who were 600 kilometers away in Ogoki Post. He would never make it home.

Chanie's body was found on October 22, 1966, a week after he fled. In his pocket was nothing but a little glass jar with seven wooden matches. Chanie fell victim to Canada's legacy of colonization of Indigenous Peoples.



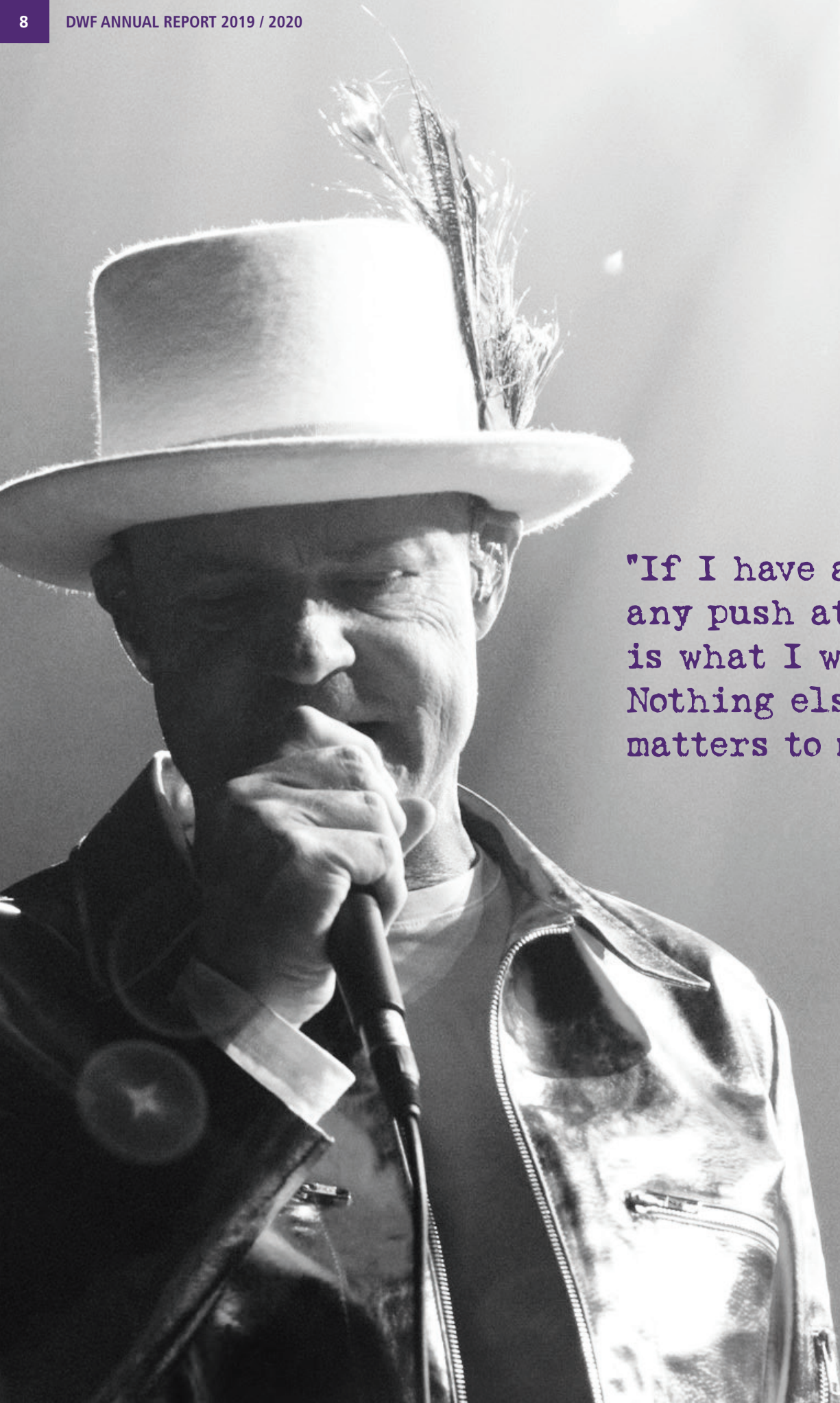
## Why did Chanie and three of his sisters have to leave Ogoki Post to attend school?

Residential Schools were government-operated institutions aimed at separating Indigenous children from their families and traditions in order to assimilate them into a colonized Canada. In all, about 150,000 First Nation, Inuit, and Métis children were removed from their communities and forced to attend the schools. While attending, many children were subjected to significant emotional, sexual, and physical abuse. The last school closed in 1996. This is Canadian history, yet many Canadians remain unaware of this part of our history.

<sup>1</sup> Carley, Georgia. "Chanie Wenjack." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, [www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/charlie-wenjack/](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/charlie-wenjack/).

<sup>2</sup> "Cecilia Jeffrey - Location Report." *NCTR - Index*, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. This report is produced by selecting the school on this map (<https://nctr.ca/map.php>)





"If I have any pull or any push at all, this is what I want to do. Nothing else really matters to me."

Gord Downie



## Gord Downie

Gord Downie was a Canadian rock musician, storyteller, and poet. He was the frontman and lyricist for the rock band The Tragically Hip from 1984 until his passing in 2017.

In August of 2016, Gord asked all Canadians to look at the state of Indigenous-settler relations in this country and to “Do Something” to change them for the better.

After concluding The Hip’s *Man Machine Poem* Tour in August 2016, Gord went to work on *Secret Path*, a collection of 10 poems that were transformed into an album, book, and documentary (in collaboration with illustrator Jeff Lemire, and many other incredible artists and collaborators). *Secret Path* recounts the story of Chanie Wenjack. Gord’s purpose with this project was to honour Chanie’s story and call national attention to the social strife faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada as a result of the Canadian Indian Residential School system.

On October 13, 2016, Gord and his brother Mike, along with the Wenjack family, announced the founding of the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund to support reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. DWF is a part of Gord’s legacy and commitment to the First Peoples in Canada to continue

the conversation that began with the Residential School story of children like Chanie Wenjack and thousands like him. The ultimate goal of DWF is to aid in our collective reconciliation journey through awareness, education, and connection.

On October 21, 2016 with more than 30 members of Chanie Wenjack’s family in attendance, Gord Downie performed a remarkable and emotional performance of *Secret Path Live* with musicians Kevin Drew (Broken Social Scene), Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies), Josh Finlayson (Skydiggers), Dave Hamelin (The Stills) and Charles Spearin (Broken Social Scene).

At the Assembly of First Nations in Gatineau, Quebec on December 6, 2016, National Chief Perry Bellegarde honoured Gord with an eagle feather, a symbol of the creator above, for his support of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Bellegarde also bestowed on Gord an honorary Indigenous name, Wicapi Omani, which is Lakota for “man who walks among the stars.”

Gord Downie was appointed to the Order of Canada on June 21, 2017 “in recognition of outstanding Indigenous leadership” at a ceremony inside Rideau Hall in Ottawa. On October 17, 2017, Gord Downie passed away with his children and family close by.

The work of DWF honours Gord Downie’s legacy, his messages of hope, his powerful calls to action, and his dedication to creating lasting, positive change in Canada;

- The Legacy Spaces program, which provides an opportunity to corporations, governments, organizations, and educational institutions to play an important role in spreading awareness about Indigenous history and our journey towards reconciliation within our communities. The program now boasts 27 Legacy Spaces in five provinces and territories across Canada, with more planned in 2020.
- The Legacy Schools program, which continues to grow at an outstanding rate, is an opportunity for classrooms/schools to lead the movement in awareness of the history and impact of the Residential School System on Indigenous Peoples. Currently there are over 1600 schools in every province and territory registered with the program.
- Secret Path Week is an annual, national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack. The aim is to inspire our Legacy Schools, Legacy Space partners, and all Canadians to use the week of October 17th-22nd to answer Gord Downie’s call to action, to “Do Something” by creating and engaging in reconciliATIONS.

## Leadership

DWF is governed by a Board of Directors made up of outstanding professional Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders. We're honoured to have a diverse and talented group who collectively guide us to ensure our journey continues towards supporting a stronger Canada.

### Our Board of Directors

**MIKE DOWNIE**

*Downie Family member*

**HARRIET VISITOR**

*Wenjack Family member, First Nations*

**BOB WATTS**

*First Nations*

**KORY WILSON**

*First Nations*

**HILLARY THATCHER**

*Métis*

**KILLULARK ARNGNA'NAAQ**

*Inuit*

**STUART COXE**

*Ally*

**BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE**

*First Nations*

**DR. ALIKA LAFONTAINE**

*BSC, MD, FRCPC, First Nations*

**SARAH MIDANIK**

*President & CEO of DWF, Métis*



# OUR WORK

## OUR PILLARS:

### Awareness, Education, Connection

DWF encourages individuals, schools, corporations, and communities to engage in reconciliATIONS through Awareness, Education and Connection.

In the same way, the strategic priorities of DWF are based in Awareness, Education and Connection. These pillars drive the work that we do, reflecting our Core Values and moving forward the Mission and Vision of DWF.



## AWARENESS

DWF has committed to an annual flagship campaign to raise awareness around Indigenous peoples and the legacy of Residential Schools. This campaign also helps raise awareness and support for DWF programming.

## EDUCATION

Provide access to education on the true history of Indigenous people in Canada and the history and legacy of Residential Schools.

## CONNECTION

Bring Indigenous & non-Indigenous people together through programming and events.

**A reconciliACTION is a meaningful action intended to promote and inspire grassroots, community-based acts of reconciliation which embody the spirit of Gord's call to action "Do Something."**





## Legacy Schools

The Legacy Schools program is a free national initiative to engage, empower, and connect students and educators to further reconciliation through awareness, education and connection. The goal of the program is to continue the conversation that began with Chanie's Residential School story through continued awareness and education. Youth are inspired to engage in reconciliACTIONS throughout Canada not only in their schools, but also throughout their communities.

Our Legacy Schools program reached a significant milestone in 2019, as we now have over 1600 schools in all 13 provinces and territories throughout Canada!

2019 also marked the formation of the Educator Advisory Committee – a group of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous educators to help guide the work of the Legacy Schools program. Committee members assist in identifying resources, including guest speakers, field placement, partnerships and various opportunities to further Legacy Schools programming. They are ambassadors and liaisons between DWF, schools, students, educators and the community. Reconciliation is a nationwide issue – it is amazing for us to see educators across the country working together and sharing.

**Thank you Legacy School Toolkit volunteers!**

**A special thank you to the Royal Bank of Canada, Rogers Communications, and Northland Power who sent out teams of volunteers to help assemble toolkits.**



\*This is based on the estimation that each educator/toolkit reaches 200 students.



## High School Artist Ambassador Program

After a successful pilot in 2018/2019, the Legacy Schools High School Artist Ambassador Program was expanded across Canada. Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists shared their art, music, and stories through workshops and/or performances, and engaged students in conversations about reconciliation. High schools hosting Artist Ambassadors were also encouraged to have students share their own stories, art, and reconciliATIONS with their guests.

Eight visits took place throughout the country, including Yellowknife, Montreal, and James Bay. Challenges were presented in March 2020 due to COVID-19, and the program was shifted to an online platform by way of DWF LIVE. Interviews and artist performances were featured on DWF's social media channels, with five special events held during the latter half of March.



Legacy Schools supported by:



High School Artist Ambassador Program supported by:



**Future Launch**

"The Indigenous people were not treated right, it's unfair. We need to talk about the truth. It was nice meeting the Indigenous artist who spoke to us. He was great!"

Jessica, Legacy School Student





**Thank you to all our Legacy Space partners for the work that you do to create a path toward reconciliation in your workplaces and communities.**



**27** Legacy Spaces

**6** new Legacy Spaces launched in **2019**

## Legacy Spaces

Legacy Spaces are safe, welcoming places dedicated to providing education and spreading awareness about Indigenous history and our journey toward reconciliation. The Legacy Spaces program is an opportunity for corporations, government, organizations and educational institutions to play an important role in their communities.

The Legacy Spaces program consists of designated spaces, curated by our partners, that allow people to learn about Indigenous history and our collective journey toward reconciliation in a safe and welcoming way. The spaces provide information about Secret Path, Chanie Wenjack, and Gord Downie's call to "Do Something". They serve as a reminder of the important work each of us needs to do if the promises of this country are to be fulfilled.

With 26 Legacy Space partners and growing, DWF is grateful for the commitment each of these companies and organizations have made toward reconciliation. This year, partners such as Scotiabank and Deloitte took the step of expanding their Legacy Space program to include multiple locations. Numerous Legacy Space partners also held events during Secret Path Week, engaging both their employees and communities.



## Hockey Teams show support for DWF!

Five WHL (Western Hockey League) teams partnered with DWF to host special game nights to raise awareness and support for the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund. A special thank you to the Victoria Royals, Red Deer Rebels, Swift Current Broncos, Prince George Cougars, Prince Albert Raiders, and WHL for their support.



## Events

### National Indigenous History Month – June 2019

June 2019 was the 10th anniversary of National Indigenous History Month - a special time to honour and celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures and achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

DWF was proud to partner with APTN for Indigenous Day Live (IDL) on June 22, 2019, Canada's largest celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day. Events for IDL took place in Whitehorse, Calgary, and Winnipeg where they were broadcast nationally on multiple platforms. In Calgary, DWF had a booth on-site and we were able to connect with attendees about our work and learn more about the great reconciliation initiatives happening in the area.

DWF also took part in the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto's 10th Annual Indigenous History Month Celebration in Toronto's Yonge Dundas Square. Indigenous artisans, agencies, entertainers and artists took centre stage during this wonderful event. We were honoured to be a part of it for the second year in a row.

The partnership with APTN was made possible through the support of DWF's Community Event Partner TD Bank Group, via its corporate citizenship platform, TD Ready Commitment.

Community Event Partner





## Secret Path Week (Oct 17 – 22)

Each year from October 17 - 22, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund calls on Canadians to take action and answer Gord's call to "Do Something" by creating reconciliACTIONS and furthering the conversation about the history of Residential Schools.

This is a special week as October 17 and 22 respectively mark the dates that Gord and Chanie joined the spirit world. While Secret Path Week takes place during a difficult time for the Downie and Wenjack families, it is also a time for us to "Do Something" to ensure their legacies live on.

This year was the biggest Secret Path Week yet, with inspiring stories and examples of reconciliACTIONS flooding in from across the country. Third-party concerts and shows, numerous Walk for Wenjack events, special teachings about Residential Schools at Legacy Schools and Legacy Spaces, and reconciliACTIONS from individuals throughout Canada reminded us that a national movement of change has begun. Gord and Chanie's legacy live on.

## Walk for Wenjack

Organized by a dedicated team of volunteers and champions, Walk for Wenjack has grown over the years since its launch in 2016. 2019 featured a large event in Toronto at Evergreen Brickworks, with over 500 students from Legacy Schools in the GTA in attendance.

Legacy Schools across Canada held Walks with their schools and communities to raise awareness of Chanie's story, and inspire their communities to commit to take their own reconciliACTIONS. Schools also raised funds to support the work and reach of the Legacy Schools program. Thank you for your support!

**This year was the biggest Secret Path Week yet, with inspiring stories and examples of reconciliACTIONS flooding in from across the country.**

## Secret Path Live 2019

Secret Path Live took place on October 19, 2019 at Roy Thomson Hall; on the same stage where Gord Downie performed his memorable show three years prior. Artists and community came together to share Chanie Wenjack's story through an immersive multimedia experience. Surprise guests, drummers, and performance art created a cultural experience that honoured Indigenous culture and the lives of Gord and Chanie.

People on stage and in the audience were moved by this powerful collective experience, knowing they were experiencing something incredibly special. At the beginning of the show, Gord's brothers Patrick and Mike placed one of Gord's hats on a chair where it remained for the duration of the evening. Pearl Wenjack told the audience she felt Chanie's presence, and she shared a special song in his honour. It felt like both Gord and Chanie were with us that night.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists stood in for Gord, backed by the original Secret Path band. Many of the artists and musicians were Gord's close friends, and all understood the responsibility and weight of the songs they were singing as they played the entire *Secret Path* album. The original *Secret Path* illustrations of Jeff Lemire, animated by Justin Stevenson, were projected on the screen just as they were in Gord's original concerts.

Thank you to all those who participated in Secret Path Live and made it so special.



### Secret Path Live artists:

Buffy Sainte-Marie, Sam Roberts, Tanya Tagaq, Serena Ryder, July Talk, William Prince, Whitehorse, Tom Wilson, Sarah Harmer, Andy Maize

### Original Secret Path Band

Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies), Kevin Drew (Broken Social Scene), Josh Finlayson (Skydiggers), Dave Hamelin (The Stills), and Charles Spearin (Do Make Say Think)

### Additional Special guests:

Pearl Wenjack, Mike Downie, Patrick Downie, Chief Stacy Laforme, National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Donnie Speidel, Marshall Dreaver, Bobby Badger, Lori Blondeau, Johnny Fay, Paul Langlois, Bruce McCulloch







Over 100 students travelled to Toronto for Secret Path Live as part of the Buy-One Give-One ticket program. Of the eight groups of students that were invited to the show, five groups travelled over 1000 km to attend the event. Some of the artists performing that evening surprised the students, taking the opportunity to visit and connect with them before the show. Kevin Drew (Broken Social Scene/Secret Path Band), Peter Dreimanis and Leah Fay (July Talk), and Johnny Fay (The Tragically Hip) all stopped by to welcome the youth to Toronto and to the Secret Path Live concert.

"We attended the concert yesterday & for us it was an amazing concert. It was not just music, it also left a few questions & curiosity in our mind & we are trying to gather as much information as possible about Gord Downie & his life, the reconciliation efforts, albums & more importantly about Chanie Wenjack, the little boy who lost his life in order to go back to his family.

Thank you so much"

*Steve Patwardhan  
Manager of Finance and Administration, Goods & Services*

"It is a night we will never forget. The kids had fun at the meet and greet and were deeply moved by the live performance. I was even more humbled to be a part of this amazing organization and am fired up to make a difference. We extend our gratitude to you and DWF for a memorable and powerful evening where we came together to reflect on why reconciliation is so important. Chanie and Gord's lives have indeed inspired us to do something.

Sincerely,

Trina"

*Trina Allinotte  
Educator, Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School*



## OUR IMPACT

**27** Legacy Spaces in **5** provinces



**1,692** Legacy Schools in every province and territory, **2,623** toolkits & booster packs distributed, **374,600** students reached

**8** Artist Ambassador visits



**5** DWF LIVE sessions

**22** third-party events & fundraisers, **31,000+** ppl reached



**1** partnership with Indigenous Day Live, reaching over **1.46** million

**1,837** attendees at Secret Path Live, including over **100** Indigenous and Legacy School students and educators



**9,386 km** - combined distance travelled by students to attend

**8** Secret Path Week events, **5,000+** people reached



**14** sessions on Exploring By The Seat Of Your Pants during Secret Path Week, with **4,005** students tuning in live



Facebook – **12,600+** followers

Twitter – **9,800+** followers

Instagram – **3,700+** followers

Total social media impressions – **3,000,000+**

# OUR PARTNERS

We are so grateful to each and every one of our partners, donors and champions. Thank you, miigwetch to all of our supporters!

## FOUNDING SUPPORTERS



The Kiessling-Isaak Family Foundation

Leah and Paul Atkinson Family Foundation

## LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



Mel Benson



David Sharpe

Sean McCoshin

The Wayne Coleman Family Fund

The Andree Rhueme and Robert Fitzhenry Family Foundation

Van Biesen-Simakas Family Fund at Toronto Foundation

## LEGACY SCHOOLS PARTNERS



## LEGACY SCHOOLS HIGH SCHOOL ARTIST AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



## LEGACY SPACES



## COMMUNITY EVENT PARTNER



## SECRET PATH LIVE SPONSORS



FASKEN



Private Giving Foundation

Available through



## DWF WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 6,498,688	\$ 5,611,536
Accounts receivable	78,407	25,000
Inventory	63,128	-
Harmonized Sales Tax receivable	152,476	36,165
Prepaid expenses	7,915	3,267
	<u>6,800,614</u>	<u>5,675,968</u>
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<u>29,504</u>	<u>35,302</u>
	<u>\$ 6,830,118</u>	<u>\$ 5,711,270</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 151,829	\$ 49,779
Current portion of deferred contributions	754,652	10,000
	<u>906,481</u>	<u>59,779</u>
<b>DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<u>21,100</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	<u>927,581</u>	<u>79,779</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<u>5,902,537</u>	<u>5,631,491</u>
	<u>\$ 6,830,118</u>	<u>\$ 5,711,270</u>

The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Charitable Registration Number: 7840 55915 RR0001



# RECONCILIATION AND YOU

## Why is Reconciliation Important?

The ongoing impact of colonization on today's Indigenous communities is evident. Indigenous people are more likely to face poverty and child welfare intervention, encounter legal issues, deal with drug and alcohol abuse, and die by suicide.<sup>3</sup> Yet, more than half of the people living in this land currently known as Canada feel that we spend too much time apologizing for Residential Schools.<sup>4</sup>

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada issued 94 Calls to Action for all Canadians to guide us in repairing the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. However, 67% of non-Indigenous Canadians have no knowledge of what this report includes or what the calls-to-action are.<sup>5</sup>

## So how do we empower Canadians to create real, actionable change?

At DWF we believe that education and awareness is the first step towards reconciliation in Canada, and as the Hon. Senator Murray Sinclair stated, "Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem - it is a Canadian problem. It involves all of us." Through our programs, DWF provides an opportunity for Canadians to actively participate in reconciliation, contributing to a national movement that will in turn positively impact Indigenous Peoples.

<sup>3</sup> Why Reconciliation? Understanding the ugly legacy of residential schools, Globe and Mail, November 2017

<sup>4</sup> Truths of reconciliation: Canadians are deeply divided on how best to address Indigenous issues, Angus Reid, 2018

<sup>5</sup> Canadian Public Opinion on Aboriginal Peoples, Environics Institute for Survey Research, 2016



## Our Future

During his last performance in Kingston, Gord Downie pointed out that it's going to take us 100 years to fix the problems that stemmed from Residential Schools. As the people living in this land currently known as Canada, each of us has a responsibility to acknowledge and understand our shared history and the impact it continues to have on the original inhabitants of this land. Understanding Chanie Wenjack's story is one important action we can take, and there is much more. We owe it to the future generations to ensure that our past and the lessons learned from it are embedded into our collective consciousness so we can get closer to both restitution and reconciliation. Through DWF programs, our goal is to create a Canada we can all be proud of.

## How can I support DWF?

Your support means more now than ever. DWF relies on generous contributions from the public and the support of our partners to ensure we can continue this important work. There are many ways to donate to DWF as well as other ways to get support such as volunteering, hosting a third-party event, or leading your own reconciliACTION.

## Where do the funds go?

Our ability to build cultural understanding and create a path toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is sustained by the generosity of our supporters. Every dollar raised directly supports the development of resources for DWF programming such as Legacy Schools, Legacy Spaces, and events that will improve awareness, and increase education and connections throughout Canada. We are deeply grateful to all those who help make this work happen.

To learn more please visit [downiewenjack.ca](http://downiewenjack.ca)



**DONATE TODAY**  
**Text "DWF" to 20222 or visit [downiewenjack.ca](http://downiewenjack.ca)**





humility legacy reconciliation  
forgiveness respect awareness  
education patience understanding  
reconciliation love acknowledgment  
compassion education openness  
acknowledgment grace reflection  
inspiration awareness truth resp  
exploration leadership forgiven  
communication truth curiosity in  
truth understanding compassion  
acknowledgment education reco  
awareness connection inspiration  
exploration patience communicatio  
cognition reflection connection  
acknowledgment forgiveness love  
hope truth legacy gra  
humility communicat  
connection inspiration  
exploration leadership forgivenes



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