

Religion and Diversity Project Report

Restorying Canada: Reconsidering Religion and Public Memory / Resituer le Canada:
Repenser la religion et la mémoire collective
University of Ottawa
Institute of Canadian and Aboriginal Studies
18-20 May, 2017

Restorying Canada was a three-day conference and public art event held at the University of Ottawa that brought together artists, poets, novelists, and scholars in the year of Canada's sesquicentennial. It asked how religion—and the ways it is remembered—has shaped the formation of Canada as a colonial and multicultural nation. Restorying Canada sought to inspire bold challenges to historiographic conventions of how we remember, invite critique as well as celebration, and explore multiple media and genres for evoking and interrogating the past.

The conference was organized by Emma Anderson (U of Ottawa), Hillary Kaell (Concordia University) and Pamela Klassen (U of Toronto), and featured presentations by scholars, graduate students, artists, writers, filmmakers, educators, journalists, and community activists from across the country. Public keynote events brought together musician Cris Derksen, Poet Laureate of Canada George Elliott Clarke, visual artist Kent Monkman, novelist Margaret Atwood, and environmentalist Leah Kostamo. The complete conference programme is attached and can be found at <http://artsites.uottawa.ca/restorying-canada/doc/Final-Programme-Restorying-Canada-18-20-May-2017.pdf>.

Restorying Canada provoked inspiring and challenging conversations about Canada's past, present, and future within and between academic, artistic, and broader public communities. These creative and critical re-imaginings of Canada's collective past and its ambiguous legacy will continue after the conference through the development of a public website.

The conference involved the participation of many Religion and Diversity Team Members, including Solange Lefebvre, Valerie Amiraux, Pamela Klassen, Christine Cusack, Judith Brunton, and Kaleigh McLelland. The total expenses of this conference were \$75,422.52. Numerous grants provided \$74,790 in funding and conference fees contributed \$2,360. The Religion and Diversity project's \$3000 grant was housed at the University of Toronto to support the webmaster's work including website design and development, the call for papers process, the PayPal account, and social media outreach.