

To: Everyone

Thu 2023-11-16 11:24 AM

Hello everyone,

I am writing to let you know that effective today, November 16, 2023, Wanda Nanibush, Curator, Indigenous Art will be leaving the AGO. Wanda's work has been invaluable to the AGO and I want to acknowledge that her departure is a loss. Since joining the AGO in 2016, Wanda's leadership vision has led to many extraordinary accomplishments within the museum, including collection building, programming, exhibitions, and the nation-to-nation formation of the Indigenous & Canadian curatorial area with Georgiana Uhlyarik. Her curatorial achievements strengthened the AGO's reputation globally, fostering a new way of collaborating and working together. Wanda's innovation has truly been monumental.

In the time we spent together, I learned a lot about Indigenous art and artists. One of the many things I always heard from Wanda was her honesty, which at times resulted in difficult conversations, including in the last few weeks. I appreciate the transparency we shared. We have mutually agreed not to share details of her departure and it is important that all staff respect these wishes. We are focused on Wanda's many accomplishments.

Wanda has undertaken her work at the AGO with enormous strength, courage and humour, in spite of many challenges. Incorporating historical narratives that have been long excluded in institutions like the AGO is very hard work, but she unswervingly inserted Indigenous art and artists, with grace, honesty and pride – which has changed our sense of history and our collective future at the museum. The AGO has set a course led by Wanda's vision – and it is clear we are still on a path; our journey is not complete.

Wanda's exhibitions include the following:

*Radical Remembrance: The Sculptures of David Ruben Piqtoukun* (2023)

*Rosalie Favell: Portraits of Desire* (2023)

*Ningiukulu Teevee: Chronicles for the Curious* (2023)

*Robert Houle: Red is Beautiful* (2021)

*Alan Michelson: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) (2021)

*Shuvina Ashoona: Beyond the Visible* (2021)

*Karoo Ashevak* (2019)

*Rebecca Belmore: Facing the Monumental* (2018)

JS McLean Centre for Indigenous & Canadian Art (2018)

*Rita Letendre: Fire & Light* (2017)

*Toronto: Tributes + Tributaries, 1971-1989* (2016)

Thank you,

Stephan