



# Repatriation Action Plan



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## Purpose

Repatriation, in this context, is about returning the records, stories, and Missing Children to Survivors, their families, and their communities. In addition, repatriation is about commemorating Survivors and the Missing Children.

## Repatriation of Records & Histories

Repatriation of archival records, oral histories, and Initiative documents will focus on returning records to individuals, families, and communities and ensuring key information is translated when possible. The following identifies key actions that Survivors would like to see happen around repatriation. “Records” refers to any archival material collected.

## Key Actions

### Action Strategy 1: Return of Records

- Records will be returned to individual Survivors, and / or the families of Missing Children (immediate and extended). The details of information to be returned to survivors includes:
  - Birth names
  - Given names
  - Names used in school reflected in the records
- Oral testimonies
  - Testimony provided during any interviews or mapping sessions will be returned to the Individual Survivor.

### Action Strategy 2: Language and Translation

- Repatriation of documents should include translations, where possible, into Ojibwe, Cree, and / or Oji-Cree. This will require the Initiative to work with Survivors on which language they would prefer to receive documents in.
  - “Documents” refers to important materials produced by the Initiative and not archival records.

## Repatriation of Missing Children

The Search Protocol states that remains shall not be disturbed. As the Initiative has progressed, there have been increasing questions around the issues of certainty, and identification. For example: how do we confirm that an “anomaly” is in fact an unmarked burial? To this end, discussion of potential options for repatriation have been discussed. Options discussed among Survivors included:

- determining identity (ex. Exhumation or DNA testing),
- burials (in community or at place of rest),
- ceremony (traditional or religious).

### Action Strategy 3: DNA Testing

- Initiative to explore options relating to DNA testing, and if there are ways to obtain DNA samples with minimal disturbance to remains.

## Memorialization

Memorialization will include both access to records as well as a physical form of memorialization such as the construction of a monument (one for Survivors and one for the missing children).

Potential physical symbols of memorialization may include:

- Two large monuments within the Lac Seul community,
- Smaller monuments in each individual affected community

### Action Strategy 4: Record Return and Access

- Records are to be returned to communities for storage and safe keeping and the entire collection of records are to be stored in a central location that all people have access to.