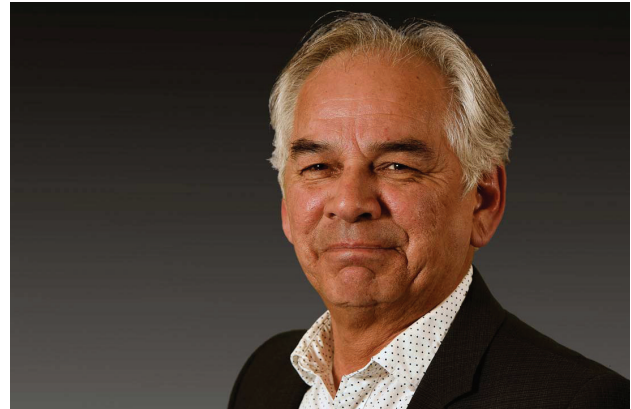


Ghislain Picard joins the McCord Stewart Museum Board of Trustees



Montreal, December 7, 2020. – The McCord Stewart Museum, the administrative entity that manages the McCord Museum and the Stewart Museum, is proud to announce the appointment of Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL), as a member of its Board of Trustees. Mr. Picard has generously agreed to contribute to the development of the institution as it pursues its journey of indigenization.

“We’re delighted to welcome Mr. Picard to the Museum’s Board of Trustees. He’s an outstanding communicator and an important figure in recognizing the rights of First Nations in Quebec and Canada. Through this appointment, we hope to strengthen the voices of First Nations within the institution and its decision-making circle,” said Monique Jérôme-Forget, Chair of the Museum’s Board of Trustees.

An Innu from the North Shore community of Pessamit, Ghislain Picard is a well-known Indigenous activist. Between 1976 and 1989, he devoted most of his time to the field of communications. In the early 1980s, Mr. Picard was President of the Quebec Native Friendship Centre and was very active in establishing a community radio network within his nation. He was one of the founders of the Société de communication atikamekw et montagnaise (SOCAM), which produces Indigenous-language radio programs. Committed to the cause of the First Nations of Quebec, but also measured and pragmatic, Ghislain Picard was elected Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador in 1992. A skilled diplomat and conciliator, he is the spokesperson for the 43 chiefs in this region of Canada and acts as a link with other levels of government and many civil society organizations.

In exercising his responsibilities, Ghislain Picard has always worked to have the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of First Nations recognized in a spirit of harmony, tolerance and respect. In 2003, he received the National Order of Quebec, and in 2005, he was awarded the insignia of Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur from the Consul General of France. Mr. Picard was named an honorary citizen of the city of Montreal in 2017.

“I’m proud to contribute to the McCord Stewart Museum in a spirit of collaboration and rapprochement. As peoples, we are the contemporary repositories of thousands of years of knowledge and understanding from our ancestors. We share the responsibility of promoting our cultures and our collective heritage, and today I’m honoured to participate in the educational efforts of a unique institution that houses treasures of our peoples,” said Ghislain Picard.

INDIGENOUS CULTURES COLLECTION AND THE PROCESS OF INDIGENIZATION

The McCord Museum's Indigenous Cultures Collection consists of more than 16,500 objects covering almost 12,000 years of history. They bear eloquent witness to the material culture of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. The collection is internationally renowned for its abundant documentation and excellent state of preservation. For several years, the institution has been engaged in a process of indigenization aimed at increasing the relevance and accessibility of this collection to Indigenous communities and ensuring that its scope reflects their concerns and contemporary perspectives.

At least two of the elected positions on the Board of Trustees are reserved for candidates from Indigenous communities (including the Inuit, Métis and First Nations peoples of Canada). Ghislain Picard joins Innu activist Melissa Mollen Dupuis, who has served on the Board since 2019. Mr. Picard's appointment is effective December 7, 2020.

ABOUT THE MCCORD MUSEUM

The McCord Museum is the museum of all Montrealers, a social history museum that celebrates life in Montreal, both past and present—its history, its people, and its communities. Open to the city and the world, the Museum presents exciting exhibitions, educational programming and cultural activities that offer a contemporary perspective on history, engaging visitors from Montreal, Canada and beyond. It is home to over 1.5 million artefacts, comprising one of the largest historical collections in North America, organized into the following departments: Dress, Fashion and Textiles; Photography; Indigenous Cultures; Documentary Art; Material Culture; and Archives.

ABOUT THE STEWART MUSEUM

The Stewart Museum is a private, non-profit history museum that was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. It has a unique collection of close to 27,000 artefacts, archival documents and rare books related to the European history of North America, from the establishment of New France up to the present day. The Museum's chief mission is to preserve and showcase these artefacts that bear witness to the voyages of exploration, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily lives of our ancestors. The Museum, located in Parc Jean-Drapeau, is housed in the arsenal of the fort on St. Helen's Island, a 19th-century military building that is listed in the Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec.

The McCord Museum and the Stewart Museum recognize that they are established on unceded Indigenous territory, and that the KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA Nation has a historical attachment to this territory, which it calls Tiohtiá:ke. These lands were, and are, a gathering place for many Indigenous nations and their ancestors.

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Interview opportunities with Monique Jérôme-Forget, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the McCord Stewart Museum and Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador.

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