

JONATHAN DEWAR, PhD

Jonathan Dewar is the Executive Director at the First Nations Information Governance Centre in Ottawa.

Jonathan has been recognized as a leader in healing and reconciliation and Indigenous health and wellbeing education, policy, and research for over a decade. He has published extensively on these subjects, with a specialization in the role of the arts in healing and reconciliation, and has lectured nationally and internationally. He has worked closely with local, regional, and national networks of Survivors and their allies, particularly the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association (CSAA), national Indigenous organizations, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, and educational and cultural institutions.

From 2016 to 2017, he was a Senior Advisor to the Reconciliation Secretariat at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Previously, from 2012 to 2016, Jonathan served as the first Director of the [Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre](#) and Special Advisor to the President at Algoma University, where he led research, education, curatorial, and community service programming, and taught courses in Anishinaabe Studies, Political Science, and Fine Arts. During this time, he was instrumental in the development of a robust collaborative community of creative, curatorial, and research practitioners through projects such as [‘Beyond Reconciliation’: Indigenous Arts, Public Engagement, and the Aftermath of Residential School](#) and *Reconciliation: Work(s) in Progress*, a 2012 symposium and artist residency he hosted at Algoma University. The project *Practicing Reconciliation: A Collaborative Study of Aboriginal Art, Resistance and Cultural Politics* was funded by the TRC and its findings are included in [Canada’s Residential Schools: Reconciliation](#), *The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Volume 6*.

Jonathan also served as the co-chair of the University’s Indigenization Working Group, a member of its Strategic Planning Facilitation Committee, and a member, on behalf of the University’s Indigenous partners, of the Research Advisory Committee. During this time, he also served as a member of the Research Advisory Board of the Northern Policy Institute and as Co-Chair of the Guidance Group for the Mental Health First Aid for First Nations course development, as well as a member of several scholarly organizations. He continues to serve as a special advisor to the CSAA and is co-curating a historical Shingwauk Residential School exhibition at Algoma University under their direction.

From 2007-2012, Jonathan served as Director of [Research](#) at the [Aboriginal Healing Foundation](#), where he led the Foundation's research and evaluation and knowledge dissemination and publication efforts. Jonathan served as managing editor and co-editor of the Aboriginal Healing Foundations’ three-volume series, *Truth and Reconciliation*, comprising the titles [From Truth to Reconciliation](#) (2008); [Response, Responsibility and Renewal](#) (2009); and [Cultivating Canada](#) (2011), and co-edited [Speaking My Truth](#). He also designed and directed two major research projects that led to the publications [The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement’s Common Experience Payment and Healing: A Qualitative Study Exploring Impacts on Recipients](#) (2010) and [Dancing, Singing, Painting, and Speaking the Healing Story: Healing through Creative Arts](#) (2012) and served as a co-editor of the special reconciliation-focused issue of the journal *West Coast Line* called [Reconcile This!](#) in 2012. He also represented the Foundation for four years as a member of the Mental Wellness Advisory Committee (First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada) and as a member of the Community Partner Committee of the

[Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research](#). He also worked with the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Advisory Committee of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Jonathan is also a past director of the [Métis Centre](#) at the [National Aboriginal Health Organization](#), where he led strategic planning, research and evaluation, communications and community liaison, and policy analysis efforts. Previously, Jonathan served as the founding executive director of the Iqaluit, Nunavut-based Qaggiq Theatre Company from its inception in 2002 to 2006. While in Nunavut, Jonathan also served in senior roles with the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the Intergovernmental Affairs and Inuit Relations unit of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Nunavut Region

Jonathan is of mixed heritage, descended from Huron-Wendat, French-, and Scottish-Canadian grandparents with an academic background in Indigenous arts and literatures and Indigenous studies. A former SSHRC doctoral fellow, Jonathan's research explores the role of art and artist in truth, healing, and reconciliation. He completed a doctorate in the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies at Carleton University. His dissertation is titled *'Dance with us as you can...': Art, Artist, and Witness(ing) in Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Journey*.

Other relevant publications include:

- Accepted for publication: "The Art of Healing and Reconciliation: From Time Immemorial through RCAP, the TRC, and Beyond." [Sharing the Land, Sharing a Future: RCAP 20th Anniversary](#). Eds. Katherine Graham and David Newhouse. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2018 [TBD].
- "'Our Roots Go Much Deeper': A Conversation with Armand Garnet Ruffo." [Arts of Engagement: Taking Aesthetic Action In and Beyond Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). Eds. Keavy Martin and Dylan Robinson. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2016.
- "Art and Reconciliation." [Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Aboriginal Peoples in Canada](#) 4th Edition. Ed. David Long. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- "Walking With Our Sisters in Sault Ste. Marie: The Commemoration of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women." [The Land We Are: Writers and Artists Unsettle the Politics of Reconciliation](#). Eds. Gabrielle Hill and Sophie McCall. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Press, 2015.
- "Adrian Stimson: Interview with Jonathan Dewar." [The Land We Are: Writers and Artists Unsettle the Politics of Reconciliation](#). Eds. Gabrielle Hill and Sophie McCall. Eds. Gabrielle Hill and Sophie McCall. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Press, 2015.
- "From Profound Silences to Ethical Practices: Aboriginal Writing and Reconciliation." [The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Literature](#). Ed. Cynthia Sugars. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- "Where Are the Children?" and 'We Were So Far Away...': Exhibiting the Legacies of Indian Residential Schools, Healing, and Reconciliation." [Museum Transformations: Art, Culture, History](#). Eds. Annie E. Coombes and Ruth Phillips. Toronto: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.

- “From Trauma and Residential Schools to Art, Archive, and Healing.” [Roots and Routes of Displacement and Trauma: From Analysis to Advocacy & Policy to Practice](#). Eds. Sheila Gruner and Sohelia Pashang. Oakville ON: Rock’s Mills Press, 2015.
- *Practicing Reconciliation – a collaborative study of Aboriginal art, resistance and cultural politics: A report commissioned by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools*. Jonathan Dewar, David Gaertner, Ayumi Goto, Ashok Mathur, and Sophie McCall. CiCAC Press: Kamloops BC, 2013.
- “[Alex Janvier: Reflections](#).” *Reconcile This!* Eds. Jonathan Dewar and Ayumi Goto. *West Coast Line* 74, vol. 46, no 2 (Summer 2012).
- “[Heather Iglooliorte: A Conversation with Jonathan Dewar](#).” *Reconcile This!* Eds. Jonathan Dewar and Ayumi Goto. *West Coast Line* 74, vol. 46, no 2 (Summer 2012).
- “[Traditional Indigenous Approaches to Healing and the Modern Welfare of Traditional Knowledge, Spirituality and Lands: A Critical Reflection on Practices and Policies taken from the Canadian Indigenous Example](#)” (with Julian Robbins). *The International Indigenous Policy Journal*: Vol. 2: Iss. 4, Article 1 (2011).
- “[Creative Arts, Culture, and Healing: Building an Evidence Base](#)” (with Linda Archibald). *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Indigenous and Aboriginal Community Health* 8:3 (Jan. 2011).
- “Rights of Restoration: Aboriginal Peoples, Creative Arts, and Healing” (with Linda Archibald, Carrie Reid, and Vanessa Stevens). [The Canadian Art Therapy Association Journal 2:23](#) (Fall 2010).
- “From Copper Woman to Grey Owl to the alterNative Warrior: Exploring Voice and the Need to Connect”. [Drew Hayden Taylor: Essays on His Works](#). Ed. Robert Nunn. Guernica Editions: Toronto, 2008.