



## Staff & Board

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Johnny Wideman

### Board Chair

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### Board of Directors

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Nora Jones

Paul Reesor

Victoria Walseth

Bob Wideman

Leanne Winkler

### Charitable No.

132774464 RP0001

## Subject: Reconciliation Commitment

May 26, 2023

### Preface:

As an organization, founded by the Christian community, Willowgrove acknowledges a unique responsibility to address the harms, both historic, and ongoing, which have been perpetrated against Indigenous communities in the name of its faith. Specifically, the tragic failures and harms committed through the various Indian Residential Schools instituted as part of the Church's mission. This remains a historic reality from which modern organizations cannot dissociate from.

In 2018, Willowgrove first began using its educational platforms as a way of actively participating in the reconciliation work of Education. This was inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. However, Willowgrove recognizes that teaching certain aspects of Indigenous education, specifically pertaining to Indigenous culture, spirituality, or customs, is not the work of Settlers. As such, Willowgrove recognizes the unique responsibility of educating its broader community on the impacts of colonialism.

Thus far, Willowgrove has provided Kairos Blanket Exercise workshops, and has partnered with Indigenous teachers and educators within the community, to celebrate and elevate their teachings and voices within the community. In addition, Willowgrove has recently been working to reevaluate its organization's charitable values (Nurturing Growth, Welcoming Community, Building Peace, Honouring Land, and Cultivating

Learning) by exploring these values through the lens of reconciliation, and further accepting the unique privilege and responsibility of caring for the land.

In efforts to further its commitment to reconciliation, Willowgrove wishes to publicly honour the Two Row Wampum treaty agreement, as well as the practice of reciprocal giving modeled by Indigenous communities. Therefore, the organization has passed the following policy, which was unanimously approved by Willowgrove's Board of Directors on April 25, 2023.

### Definitions:

"Indigenous Community" includes First Nations groups, Indigenous organizations and charities, and Indigenous individuals providing community programming who are in good standing with their community, and/or are recognized by their nation's elders.

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“Indoor Pavilion” is an accessible, 3-4 season heated building (Radiant flooring) that is 90’ long and 50’ wide. The space comes equipped with lighting, and electricity, a sound system, and projector/projection screen. Its interior features four unique murals painted by Scugog artist Jon Colwell. This space is typically \$225 to rent for a 4-hour period, and \$325 to rent for an 8-hour period, and includes access to Willowgrove’s 100-acre farm property, parking, and washroom facilities.

“Ceremonies” includes, but is not limited to Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, Full Moon Ceremonies, and Coming of Age Ceremonies.

“Traditional practices” include Powwows, and the planting and access to medicine gardens.

“Colonialization” in this case, includes Willowgrove’s acknowledgement that, as a Settler and Christian organization, it also has specific responsibilities to address harms, both historic, and ongoing, that have been perpetrated against the Indigenous community in the name of its faith.

**Preamble:**

Willowgrove commits to working with, supporting, and deepening relationships with the local Indigenous community. Therefore, in order to actively pursue, and to demonstrate an organizational commitment towards reconciliation, Willowgrove has passed the following policy:

**Policy:**

In efforts to address the ongoing impacts of Colonialization, to honour reciprocal giving, and to better make available its resources, Willowgrove will be offering free rentals of its indoor pavilion building for Indigenous communities for the use of ceremonies and traditional practices, as well as other community activities. Although no cost would be associated with this usage, rentals must follow the predetermined policies and procedures associated with use, including scheduling with the Rentals Coordinator in advance, signing adherence to Willowgrove’s rentals agreements, and policies, and either providing the organization’s insurance coverage, or joining Willowgrove’s umbrella insurance coverage.

**Closing:**

On behalf of Willowgrove’s Board, staff, and members, it is the hope of the organization that this humble gesture will help to strengthen its current friendships, and support, as well as build new relationships with Indigenous peoples in this community.

Sincerely,

Johnny Wideman  
Executive Director  
Willowgrove

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