



Coalition for Canadian
Digital Heritage

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Strategic Framework

Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage (CCDH)

The CCDH is a cross-sectoral coalition of memory organizations committed to expanding digital access to Canada's cultural heritage. We strive to build an inclusive community of practice; enabling and coordinating collaboration, capacity, and resources to advance shared priorities. CCDH provides a collaborative framework for individuals and organizations in advancing community-driven priorities and short-term and long-term projects and initiatives, while sharing resources and expertise and avoiding the duplication of efforts. By uniting as a community, we more effectively harness the available resources and advocate for a sustainable future for Canadian digital heritage.

Respectful access to and preservation of cultural heritage is a cornerstone of all democratic societies. Cultural heritage is a vital component of economic, social, legal, and cultural understanding and growth, and fosters innovation. Understanding the past requires access to documentation and records of lived experiences of that past. The shift from an analogue to a digital world has been transformative, and the collections and archives which tell the stories of those who came before us are more accessible than ever before. Yet there is still much more to be done to surface the diversity of the Canadian experience in the digital world in which we now live.





This work is urgent and timely. Canadian heritage materials are spread across many institutions, organizations, and groups, the majority of them inaccessible and potentially at risk of deterioration in their physical form or hidden from online discovery. Even the cultural materials that exist online are at risk of being lost to future generations due to the challenges of digital preservation.

Through coordination and collaboration, the CCDH envisions a future where heritage material is consumed and understood in new ways, unlocking content to allow for technological innovations. Digitization frees information from the bounds of its physicality; it enables the dynamic interweaving of past, present, and future and empowers diverse interpretations of histories. Digital technologies also make it possible for memory institutions to provide immediate access to their holdings to an almost limitless audience.

Canada is a signatory to the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) and CCDH strives to adhere to the rights related to cultural heritage guaranteed in the Declaration and to create space for the marginalized to voice their own narratives. Respectful access to and preservation of our histories is a human right and an incentive for civic engagement. We cannot have an inclusive future if we are not fully aware of the past. Without trustworthy and sustainable access to our cultural heritage, misinformation and polarization can fester and further divide us. The more we are able to expand our knowledge and learn about our histories and the histories of others, the more we can build mutual understanding and respect.

Our Vision

Building an inclusive future by revealing our diverse histories.

Our Mission

The Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage enables digitization, access, and preservation of heritage content for discovery and innovation.

Our Principles

Memory organizations and their communities strive to champion solutions and opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the vast and vibrant Canadian cultural experience. The work of the CCDH is guided by the following principles:

- **It is our responsibility and promise to future generations to preserve the digitized heritage of Canada**
- **We intentionally and respectfully surface the diverse stories of Canada's past, as told from many voices and perspectives**
- **Justice, human rights, and sustainability are advanced through equitable and respectful access to the digitized heritage of Canada**

To achieve these principles, we collaborate as a community to harness available resources and expertise. We will work to build an inclusive community network of expertise to work collectively towards our shared vision for the future.

Our Strategic Priorities

1

Ensure content of importance to Canadians is digitally accessible

- Recommend and enable the cross-sectoral coordination of content priorities for digitization and digital preservation
 - Develop a set of community-endorsed principles
- Strive for sustainable access to cultural and heritage materials through collective investments in national infrastructure
 - Advocate for increased and sustainable funding for digitization and digital preservation

2

Intentionally and respectfully uncover the hidden stories of Canada's history

- Support community-led efforts to digitize and preserve the heritage and cultural materials of marginalized and equity-deserving groups
 - Prioritize content and collections for digitization that are aligned with principles of Truth and Reconciliation, and equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Enable cross-sectoral knowledge and awareness of efforts to increase discoverability and usability
 - Engage with the users of memory organizations to understand and support a user-centered approach to discovery

Our Strategic Priorities

3

Build cross-sectoral capacity

- Identify current digitization capacity in Canada, indicating gaps and future opportunities
 - Develop communities of practice for sustainable digitization and digital preservation expertise and training
- Amplify and support cross-sectoral hubs of expertise in digitization, access, and preservation, providing opportunities for collaboration at local, regional, and national levels
 - Convene a regular forum to encourage partnerships, collaborations, and resource sharing

Acknowledgements

The CCDH acknowledges the territories of Indigenous nations and peoples that exist in lands now known as Canada. The CCDH commits itself to respecting the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations.

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Contact Us

Visit the CCDH online at ccdhdnnpcc.ca or contact us at secretariat@ccdhdnnpcc.ca.

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Page 1: Beaded strip, unknown Indigenous (Abenaki?) creator / McCord Stewart Museum / M8367

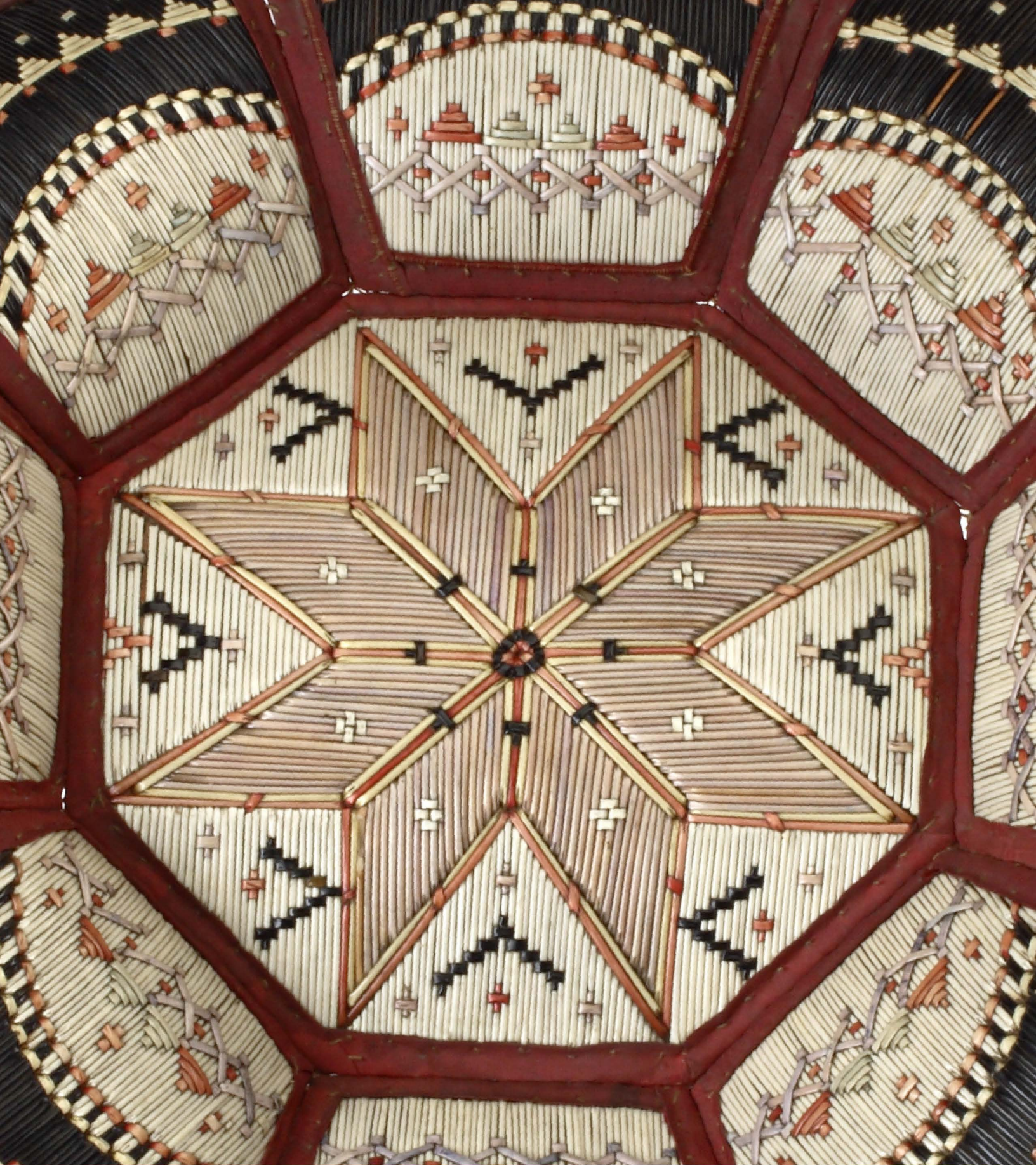
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