



*Following the CSRG workshop, Museum Openings: Caring for Difficult Knowledge within and Beyond the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Kelby gave a presentation to her colleagues. This is her account:*

On November 17 I had the opportunity to present and facilitate a discussion with the Global College Student Advisory Council on ideas from the Museum Openings workshop and my experience at the CMHR. Some of the topics I touched on included how museums build a legality of human rights law (Jennifer Orange), the involvement of children in museums (Monica Patterson), multiculturalism (Deanna Aubert), forgiveness (Karyn Ball), "how to be a hopeful killjoy" (Angela Failler), and inclusion. I ended the presentation with information about Shoal Lake and some of their techniques of resistance (including the Museum of Canadian Human Rights Violations).

The discussion that followed was useful for the attending students, guest, and professor to engage with the ideas presented and to share their own experiences. One individual mentioned that the CMHR has incorporated a display with information on the opposing sides of the debate of whether the word "genocide" should be used to describe residential schools. This recognition of controversy and differing perspectives within the museum is encouraging to see. Another individual noted that Canada has signed onto the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide with the exception of Article 2(e) which describes a genocide as "forcible transferring children of the group to another group". Because this article accurately describes residential schools, signing onto it would mean the Government of Canada would have to recognize residential schools as a genocide. Others added that they were hopeful for the museum to serve as a site of education and activism. One individual compared the CMHR to the United Nations noting that both are necessary for certain purposes, but that there are still things we wish to change about both.

I believe this presentation and discussion was important for all those who participated (including myself) to share experiences, suggest ways we would like to see the museum evolve, and explore how we and others can engage with the museum and activism in an informed way.

Kelby Loeppky,

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