

Date: 7 July 2015
To: Cameron Cross
Pembina Trails Visual Arts Consultant
From: Jessica Senehi
Director, Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival
Associate Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies
Re: Thank you!



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Dear Cameron,

Thank you for being a visionary artist who draws on the power of artistic expression for community-building, human rights education, and peace and justice on a small or massive scale!

Congratulations on your recent project for Pembina Trails School Division that dramatically brought together more than 13,000 students to share their individual and personal expression for a united vision of human rights. Human rights is an intangible idea that was discussed and examined individually and collectively in classrooms and schools across the school division. This idea was made *real* in the form of the installation that encompassed students' individual tiles in the Investors Group athletic centre and in the way the way the process modeled people thinking and sharing ideas in a community context. The project was at the same time personal, local, and community-wide; and like all meaningful rituals, it made the invisible (the idea of human rights and global citizenship) visible.

Also, thank you for your participation and engagement on the planning committee of the Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival's 2008 art project "Postcards on the Rights of the Child." Your idea to focus the developing art project on *postcards* was brilliant. It made the project much more doable and coherent, and postcards are emblematic of the desire to reach out and communicate across time and place. Postcards are also associated with travel, which is a metaphor of moving into new territories and landscapes—that is, learning, changing, and growing. Your enthusiasm and hard work to prepare the cardstock to postcard size and send the blank postcards to schools that requested them made the logistics of the project possible and efficient. More than 1,700 postcards were submitted—from every school division in Winnipeg, from both public and private schools, and from every grade level.

The committee also included Pauline Broderick (*Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba*), John Funk (*Graphic Artist*), Lydia Hedrich (*Asst Superintendent, Seven Oaks*), Naomi Levine (*then Chair-Elect, Board of Governors, Winnipeg Art Gallery*), Andrea Pratt (*Community Partnerships and Events Manager, UNICEF*), and myself.



U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child
La Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant
ARTICLE 7

You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognized by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country.)

Tu as droit à un nom, et ce nom doit être reconnu officiellement par le gouvernement. Tu as le droit d'avoir une nationalité (le droit d'appartenir à un pays).

Artiste: Roxanne Ilagan