

MORRISSEAU ART CONSULTING INC.

March 23, 2024

When contacted by the Globe and Mail for [this morning's article](#) regarding the Guelph Storm jerseys, Morrisseau Art Consulting, Inc. issued the following statement on record:

"The paintings from which the jersey logos appear to have been copied are known as Sacred Thunderbird and Sacred Medicine Bear.

Sacred Thunderbird, in particular, has an interesting history. We are unaware of any provenance for that piece (or Sacred Medicine Bear) prior to the 2000's, but it was featured as a giclee print offered in various sizes by White Distribution Ltd., a company owned by James White, who is one of the people recently charged with fraud. When it was so offered, it was accompanied by a certificate of authenticity, signed by Christian Morrisseau, who was one of Norval's sons. That certificate was issued by the Morrisseau Family Foundation (the "MFF"), an organization set up with the help of Joseph McLeod, the art dealer who was found liable for fraud in relation to Morrisseau's work.

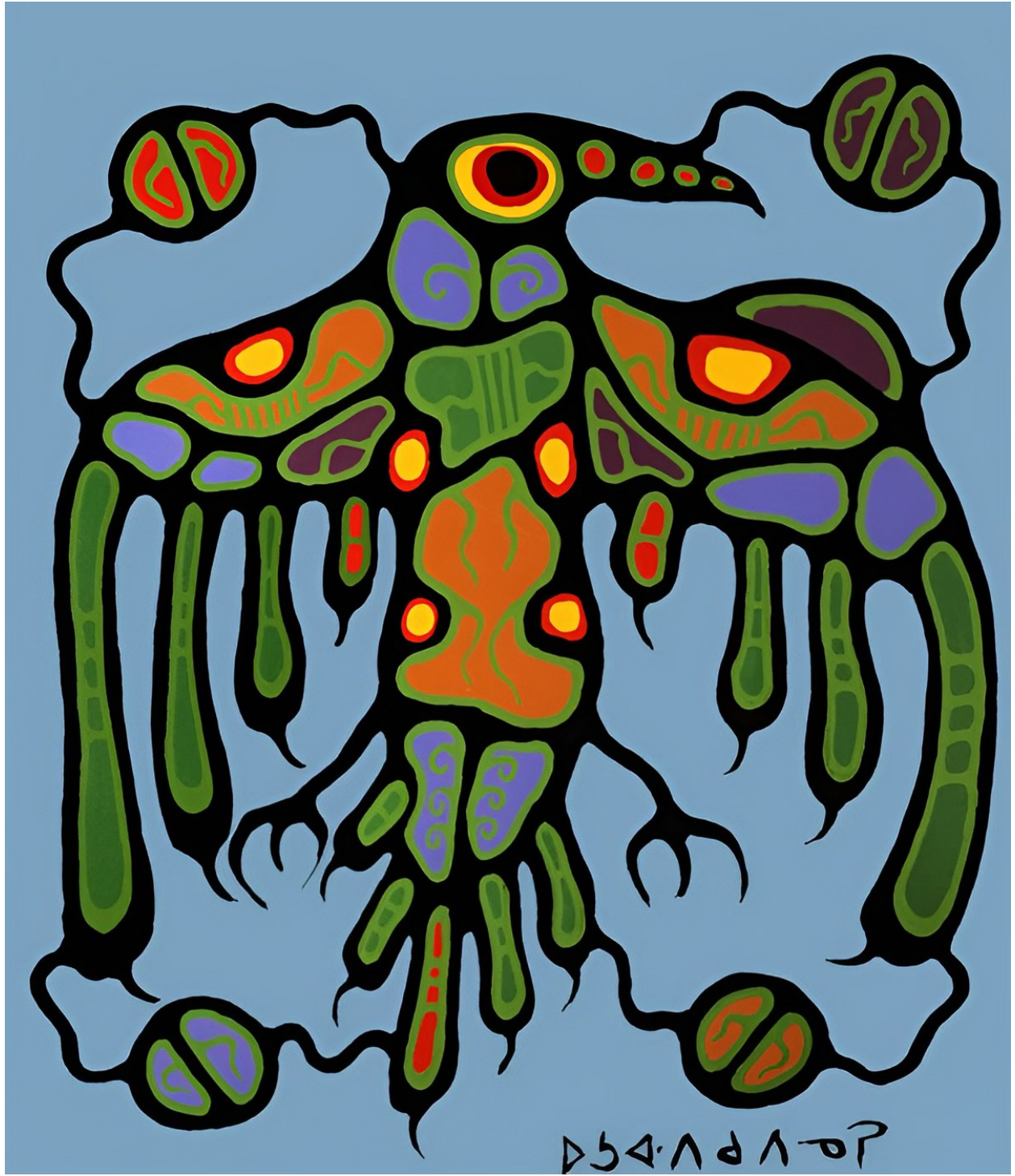
The MFF's members also include several of Norval's other children. Those children, who are also now members of what is known as the Morrisseau Estate, have been long-time supporters of, and collaborators with, both White and McLeod. In other words, Sacred Thunderbird's history is strongly connected to the long-time business relationship between Norval's children, who are now part of "the estate," and two art dealers, one of whom has been found by the court to be a fraud, and the other of whom is currently facing several criminal charges in relation to the Morrisseau fraud.

Norval Morrisseau's children's involvement in the promotion and authentication of fake Morrisseau paintings is not new. For example, the painting Shaman with Bird Artist, which was admitted to be a fake by fraudster Gary Lamont in his guilty plea, was authenticated by David Morrisseau and offered for sale in the 2008 Art Cube Gallery (Toronto) "Morrisseau Family" exhibition put on by Norval's sons David Morrisseau, Eugene Morrisseau and Christian Morrisseau, all of whom are members of the MFF and of the current "Morrisseau Estate". Remarkably, another painting that was offered for sale at that same Art Cube Gallery exhibition was a painting titled Great Thunderbird – which is actually the same painting that is now known in print form as Sacred Thunderbird.

Interestingly, Sacred Medicine Bear, which was dated 1974, was the subject of the art fraud charges against Gary Lamont, the Thunder Bay drug dealer and convicted rapist who ran part of the Morrisseau fakes production ring. When he pled guilty recently, he specifically identified Sacred Medicine Bear as a painting that his fraud ring produced, a fact with which the Crown agreed.

It is our view that both Sacred Thunderbird and Sacred Medicine Bear have various characteristics that are consistent with the works implicated by the police in Project Totton, and which are inconsistent with Morrisseau's known authentic works. Accordingly, we strongly urge that Sacred Thunderbird be examined for its authenticity to be determined."

Jonathan Sommer
Chief Executive Officer
Morrisseau Art Consulting, Inc.



Sacred Thunderbird (aka Great Thunderbird) - artwork attributed to Norval Morrisseau.

THE MORRISSEAU FAMILY EXHIBITION

**OPENING: SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008
8:00 PM**

**SHOWING TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN TORONTO**

Original Works of Art by

NORVAL MORRISSEAU

DAVID MORRISSEAU EUGENE MORRISSEAU

CHRISTIAN MORRISSEAU



ARTCUBE

2387 WESTON ROAD, TORONTO, ON. M9N 1Z8

416-221-5056 416-223-7383

The Morrisseau Family Exhibition from 2008 at Art Cube Gallery where the original painting for "Sacred Thunderbird" was offered for sale with a title of "Great Thunderbird" along with other paintings by David Morrisseau, Christian Morrisseau and Eugene Morrisseau



TITLE: GREAT THUNDERBIRD
ARTIST: NORVAL MORRISSEAU
SIZE: 47.5"X 41" 1979



TITLE: UNTITLED
ARTIST: NORVAL MORRISSEAU
SIZE: 20"X 28" 1989



TITLE: UNDERWORLD LIFE
ARTIST: NORVAL MORRISSEAU
SIZE: 20"X 26" 1974



ARTCUBE

2387 WESTON ROAD, TORONTO, ON. M9N 1Z8

416-221-5056 416-223-7383

Originally the source painting of "Sacred Thunderbird" was titled "Great Thunderbird" as seen in this page from the Morrisseau Family Exhibition catalog.

The painting was later used to create prints which were offered for sale by White Distributions Ltd. (a company owned by Jim White).



anishnabegoutreach



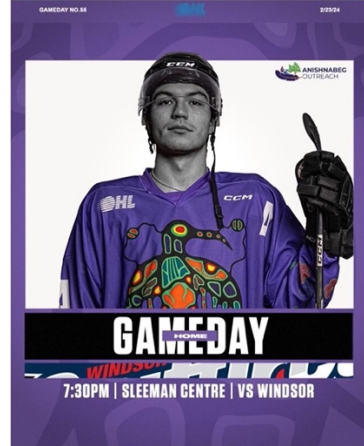
The painting by Anishnabeg Outreach CEO Stephen Jackson which was used by the Guelph Storm for their jerseys.



Great Thunderbird (1979)/ AKA Sacred Thunderbird giclée
Attributed to Norval Morrisseau
47.5 x 41 (painting)
Source: Morrisseau Family Exhibition,
Art Cube Gallery (Toronto)

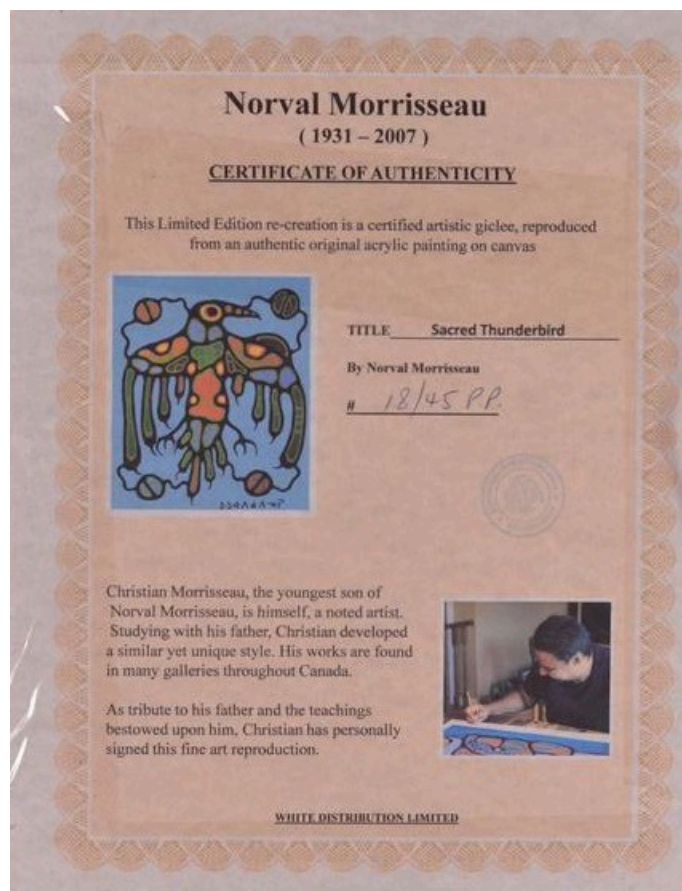


UNKNOWN TITLE
By Stephen Jackson



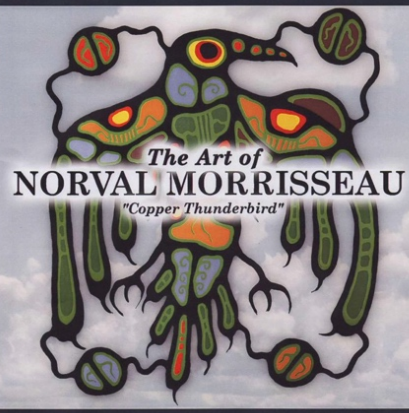
Guelph Storm Jerseys with

Side by Side: Sacred Thunderbird, the painting by Stephen Jackson and it's use on the Guelph Storm jersey for fundraising purposes.



Sacred Thunderbird was published with the Morrisseau Family Foundation (MFF) stamp of approval and authentication by Christian Morrisseau through White Distribution Ltd. - a company owned by Jim White. White is one of the individuals facing several criminal charges related to the Norval Morrisseau Art fraud.

Legends of our People



**The Art of
NORVAL MORRISSEAU**
"Copper Thunderbird"

Limited Edition Gicleés on Canvas

All Norval Morrisseau Limited Edition Canvas images are available in two sizes

What is a Gicleé?

The term "gicleé print" connotes an elevation in printmaking technology. Images are generated from high resolution digital scans and printed with archival quality inks onto various media, including canvas, fine art and photo-base papers.

These gicleé prints have been carefully crafted using a professional 12 colour "pigment" based process.

The image stability of pigment printing is superior to any other method of printing. The particulate nature of pigment inks ensures their archival superiority.

Gicleé prints are commonly found in museums, art galleries and photographic galleries.

Numerous examples can be found in New York City at the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art and the Chelsea Galleries. Recent auctions by noted artists have fetched between \$9,600.00 and \$22,000.00.

Authorized and authenticated by the Morrisseau Family Foundation

WHITE DISTRIBUTION LTD.

RETAIL PRICE LIST
NORVAL MORRISSEAU GICLEE ON CANVAS


TITLE	SIZE	RETAIL \$	
		CANVAS ONLY	GALLERY WRAP
SHAKING TENT	30" X 35"	\$400.00	\$500.00
	36.375" X 42.5"	\$525.00	\$655.00
SACRED THUNDERBIRD	35" X 30"	\$400.00	\$500.00
	42.5" X 36.375"	\$525.00	\$655.00
HEAVENLY BROTHERS	19" X 36"	\$275.00	\$355.00
	28.5" X 54"	\$525.00	\$655.00
MEDICINE BEAR	26" X 26"	\$275.00	\$355.00
	36" X 36"	\$450.00	\$560.00
LOON FAMILY	23" X 33"	\$310.00	\$400.00
	29" X 42"	\$425.00	\$530.00
FAMILY OF BIRDS	30" X 23.5"	\$295.00	\$375.00
	38" X 30"	\$420.00	\$520.00
FLOWERS AND BIRDS	38" X 19"	\$295.00	\$375.00
	60" X 30"	\$600.00	\$750.00

"Few artists have the gift and ability to fulfill the criteria that establishes the Reputation of a really great artist - a creator of masterworks.

Certain artists speak for a time in history, some for a place, some for a people, And some perfect a new way of seeing - a universal for an entire world. Rare, indeed, is the artist - painter who does all these, Morrisseau is one of these."

Joseph McLeod

Sacred Thunderbird



AVAILABLE IN TWO SIZES:
35" X 30" 42.5" X 36.375"

Copper Thunderbird

Morrisseau's ancestral Indian name - Copper Thunderbird - indicates he is a go-between, an Okkabeewi. By having an Indian name for thunderbird-made-of-copper, Morrisseau unites the two warring powers of underwater-underneath and above-sky. It seems likely that this was done more elaborately in the Shaking Tent rites that his grandfather practiced.

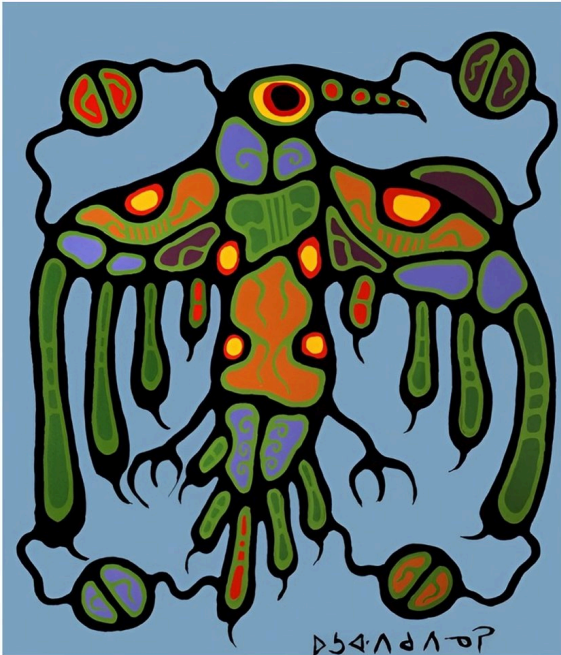


Members:

- Victoria Kakegamic
- Pierre Morrisseau
- Michael Morrisseau
- Eugene Morrisseau
- Christian Morrisseau
- Lisa Morrisseau
- David Morrisseau

The Morrisseau Family and Goyce Kakegamic.

Excerpts from Legend of our People catalog (a play on Norval Morrisseau's 1965 book titled "Legends of my People") - the Limited edition giclee on canvas series was offered for sale by White Distribution Ltd and authenticated and approved by the Morrisseau Family Foundation. Additionally, a photo of David, Christian, Josh (Christian's son), Wolf Morrisseau and Jim White along with his former spouse Alicia Soave (AKA Alicia Hay - AKA Alicia White). The painting previously offered as Great Thunderbird is now titled herein as Sacred Thunderbird and featured prominently.



Great Thunderbird (1979)/ AKA Sacred Thunderbird giclée
Attributed to Norval Morriseau
47.5 x 41 (painting)
Source: Morriseau Family Exhibition
Art Cube Gallery (Toronto)



Sacred Thunderbird My Totem (1975)
Fake Norval Morriseau painting from Lamont Fraud Ring
Source: Gallery 260 Police Seizure. - R v Lamont, Agreed Statement of Facts -
"Artworks falsely attributed to Norval Morriseau that was advertised and/or sold by or at the direction of Gary Lamont"

Side by Side of "Sacred Thunderbird" and "Sacred Thunderbird My Totem"
which was falsely attributed to Norval Morriseau as documented in

R v Gary Lamont,
Indictment CR-23-0043-00
Agreed Statement of Facts
Appendix B, Item 31
Property Tag P22049209
, OPP Exhibit 4001
Seized at Gallery 260 on April 29, 2022.



"Sacred Medicine Bear" (1974): was the subject of the art fraud charges against Gary Lamont, the Thunder Bay drug dealer and convicted rapist who ran part of the Morrisseau fakes production ring. When he pled guilty recently, he specifically identified "Sacred Medicine Bear" as a painting that "was advertised and/or sold by or at the direction of Gary Lamont," a fact with which the Crown agreed

Date on Artwork	1974	Seized by Police?	No
Title	Sacred Medicine Bear	Date of Seizure	N/A
Medium	Canvas	Source of Seizure	N/A
		Authority for Seizure	N/A
		OPP Exhibit #	N/A
		Property Tag #	N/A



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Agreed Statement of Facts - Appendix "B"

The entry for Sacred Medicine Bear (1974) which was falsely attributed to Norval Morrisseau. The artwork was documented by the Crown in R v Gary Lamont, Indictment CR-23-0043-00, Agreed Statement of Facts, Appendix B, Item 76, as filed in Court at the Gary Lamont hearing in Thunder Bay.



Sacred Medicine Bear (1974)

Fake Norval Morrisseau painting
from Gary Lamont Fraud Ring

Source: [R v Lamont, Agreed Statement of Facts](#)

*"Artwork Falsely Attributed to Norval Morrisseau
that was advertised and/or sold by or at the direction
of Gary Lamont"*



UNKNOWN TITLE

by Stephen Jackson

Source: Anishnabeg Outreach, Facebook



Guelph Storm Jersey #2

Side by Side of "Sacred Medicine Bear," Stephen Jackson's artwork and the image Jackson then licensed to the Guelph Storm for fundraising purposes.



Anishnabeg Outreach CEO Stephen Jackson, the artist, promoting his design and the jersey at the OHL Guelph Storm hockey game.

PRESS RELEASE BY NORVAL MORRISSEAU

To all concerned, I Norval Morrisseau of Nanaimo, B.C. do hereby state for the record the following:

1. I have not been consulted or in any way involved with the formation of the "Morrisseau Family Foundation" nor do I support it in any way.
2. This Foundation does not have my authority or consent to authenticate my art or to otherwise hold itself out as representing me or my interests in any manner whatsoever.
3. The people involved do not have any right or authority to be involved in my business or my personal affairs.
4. I have authorized the Norval Morrisseau heritage Society as the authority to create a catalogue raisonnee of my original artwork.

DATED this 3rd day of October, 2007.

Norval Morrisseau

Norval Morrisseau

Gabe Vadas

G. Vadas

Morrisseau Family Foundation - Members

Members:

- [Victoria Kakegamic](#)
- [Pierre Morrisseau](#)
- [Michael Morrisseau](#)
- [Eugene Morrisseau](#)
- [Christian Morrisseau](#)
- [Lisa Morrisseau](#)
- [David Morrisseau](#)



The Morrisseau Family and Goyce Kakegamic.

Screenshot of the Morrisseau Family Foundation website homepage detailing who they are (Morrisseau's children) and also the resulting Press Release by Norval Morrisseau in response; making clear what he thought of it.



NORVAL
MORRISSEAU
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

THE MORRISSEAU FAMILY D
ABOUT NORVAL MORRISSEAU
MISSION STATEMENT
ORGANIZATION
CONTACT US

About the Morrisseau Family Foundation

Norval Morrisseau, Copper Thunderbird, is buried next to his wife Harriet Kakegamic in Keewaywin, in his Ojibwe homeland. His grave is marked with a simple picket fence, and is maintained by his family. Norval Morrisseau is acclaimed as one of Canada's greatest artists, and his works sell for tens of thousands of dollars, yet at the time of his death, his family was told that he did not have a bank account, and that he had no inventory of paintings. Major artworks were dispersed under questionable circumstances, and his children's inheritance amounted to absolutely zero.

Norval's eldest daughter, Victoria, intuitively understood that her father's legacy belonged to the First Nations of Canada, and specifically to his blood family, and shortly after his death in 2007, she resolved to assert her family's moral and legal entitlement to the artistic legacy of Norval Morrisseau.

Victoria knew that she would need help if she was to achieve her goals, so she contacted someone she knew she could trust, Joseph McLeod, a longtime family friend who had known her father for over forty years, and had known Victoria herself since childhood. As a professional art gallery owner with over three decades of experience in the sale of First Nations art, he was well-positioned to support Victoria through the complex processes involved in staking her family's claim to their intellectual property.

Together, Joseph and Victoria took the first steps towards asserting the family's rights through the creation of a legal non-profit entity, the Morrisseau Family Foundation, a registered charitable entity in the Province of Ontario. In June of 2009, the Morrisseau Family Foundation successfully petitioned the courts for their ownership of the copyright to Norval Morrisseau's artistic legacy. With this judgment, the Foundation's work begins a new phase, in asserting that Norval Morrisseau's legacy now belongs to the Native People of Canada and, specifically, to his seven children. Under Canadian law, copyright violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$1 million, and up to five years in prison. The Foundation intends to assert its legal ownership of the Morrisseau legacy, to ensure an appropriate future for the Morrisseau family, and to protect the legacy from illegal exploitation.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation is composed entirely of the seven children of Norval Morrisseau and Harriet Kakegamic, chaired by Victoria Kakegamic, with Joseph McLeod chairing the Circle of Friends. The organization's day to day operations are staffed by volunteers in Toronto.

Letters of Support

A selection of letters of support the Morrisseau Family Foundation has received

"Happy to hear the news of efforts to protect Norval Morrisseau's work and legacy. Please keep me informed of upcoming events."

"I am glad to see you have set this up, and wish you success in the on going story of Norval Morrisseau."

"Congratulations and best wishes to you in your endeavors to preserve the legacy of your father's artistic contribution to the people of Canada and the rest of the world. It is great to have members of Mr. Morrisseau's actual family come forward to take the lead in preserving his work and reputation."

"If a member of his family could print and then burn the following message, maybe its smoke could reach him, somewhere. Thank you.

Dear Copper Thunderbird, Comme tu n'es plus là, je peux me permettre de t'écrire en français. J'aimerais avoir la permission de te tutoyer. Ce n'est pas par manque de respect, loin de là. C'est parce que c'est mon âme qui parle à la tienne. Tu es le



Victoria (far right) and Lisa (centre) with Governor General Michaëlle Jean



The Morrisseau Family with Goyce Kakegamic (left) and Joseph McLeod (centre)

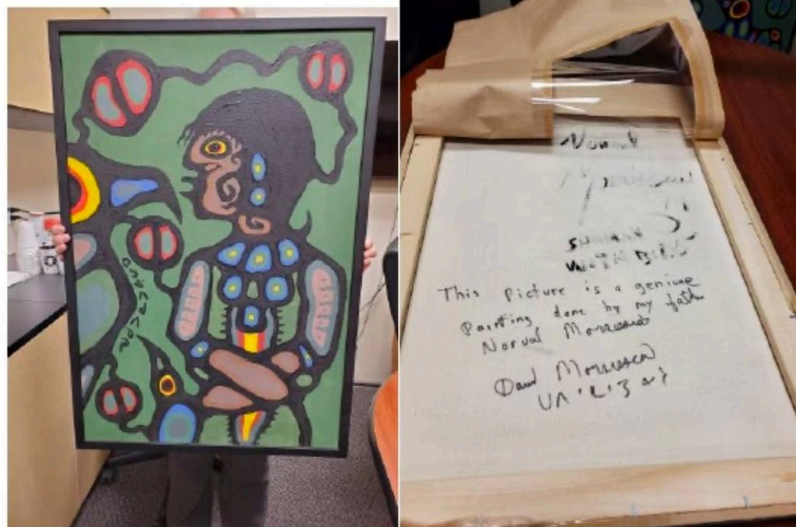


Victoria Morrisseau-Kakegamic



Photo of David Morrisseau authenticating a purported Norval Morrisseau artwork.

Date on Artwork	1979	Seized by Police?	Yes
Title	Shaman with Bird	Date of Seizure	2021.11.02
Medium	Canvas	Source of Seizure	Sun Nam KIM
		Authority for Seizure	Consent
		OPP Exhibit #	641
		Property Tag #	P21115060



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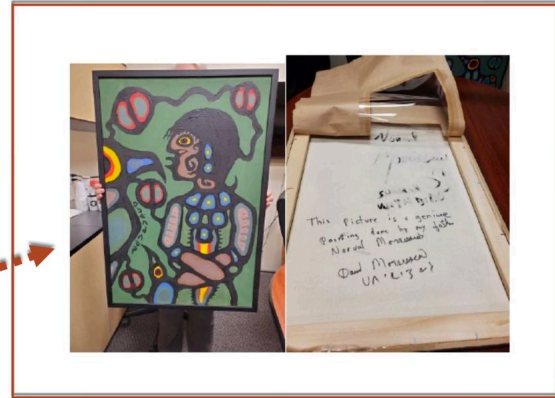
Agreed Statement of Facts - Appendix "B"

Item 25 from R v Gary Lamont, Indictment CR-23-0043-00, Agreed Statements of Facts, Appendix B, Item 25. A painting titled "Shaman with Bird" and dated 1979. Authenticated on the verso in writing by David Morrisseau, Norval Morrisseau's son and member of the Morrisseau Family Foundation and now a part of the "Estate."



Date on Artwork 1979
Title Shaman with Bird
Medium Canvas

Seized by Police? Yes
Date of Seizure 2021.11.02
Source of Seizure Sun Nam KIM
Authority for Seizure Consent
OPP Exhibit # 641
Property Tag # P21115060



Agreed Statement of Facts - Appendix "B"

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One the left - a page from the Morrisseau Family Exhibition catalog in 2008 at Art Cube Gallery. On the right, the same painting as documented in R v Gary Lamont, Indictment CR-23-0043-00, Agreed Statement of Facts, Appendix B, Item 25 as Falsely Attributed to David's father, Norval Morrisseau, and identified as sold by or at the direction of Gary Lamont.



KEEWAYWIN FIRST NATION
202 BAND OFFICE ROAD, P.O. BOX 90
KEEWAYWIN, ONTARIO P0V 3G0
1-807-771-1210 (TEL)
1-807-771-1053 (FAX)
1-866-437-9505 (TOLL-FREE)

February 12, 2014

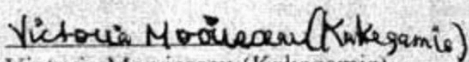
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Joseph McLeod

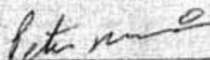
Dear Sir/Madam:

Regarding the allegations against Joseph McLeod we the children believe they are false. Mr. McLeod met our father in the late 1950's and continued following our father's artistic career and collecting his art work. We do not believe that Joe McLeod is involved in a fraud ring regarding our father's art. *We do not believe there is a fraud ring.* In the 1980's as Dean of Arts at Seneca College he had our father come and be Artist in Residence. We have viewed our father's paintings in Malsak McLeod Gallery and in past catalogues and declare that the paintings are authentic. We grew up watching our father paint and our opinion should be respected in regards to what is authentic. Throughout the decades Mr McLeod has been a friend to the family of Norval Morrisseau. He has showed us respect and we surely give it back to him.

Signed, the children of Norval Morrisseau

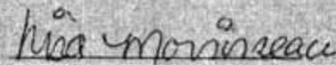

Victoria Morrisseau (Kakegamic)

David Morrisseau


Pierre Morrisseau

Eugene Morrisseau


Michael Morrisseau

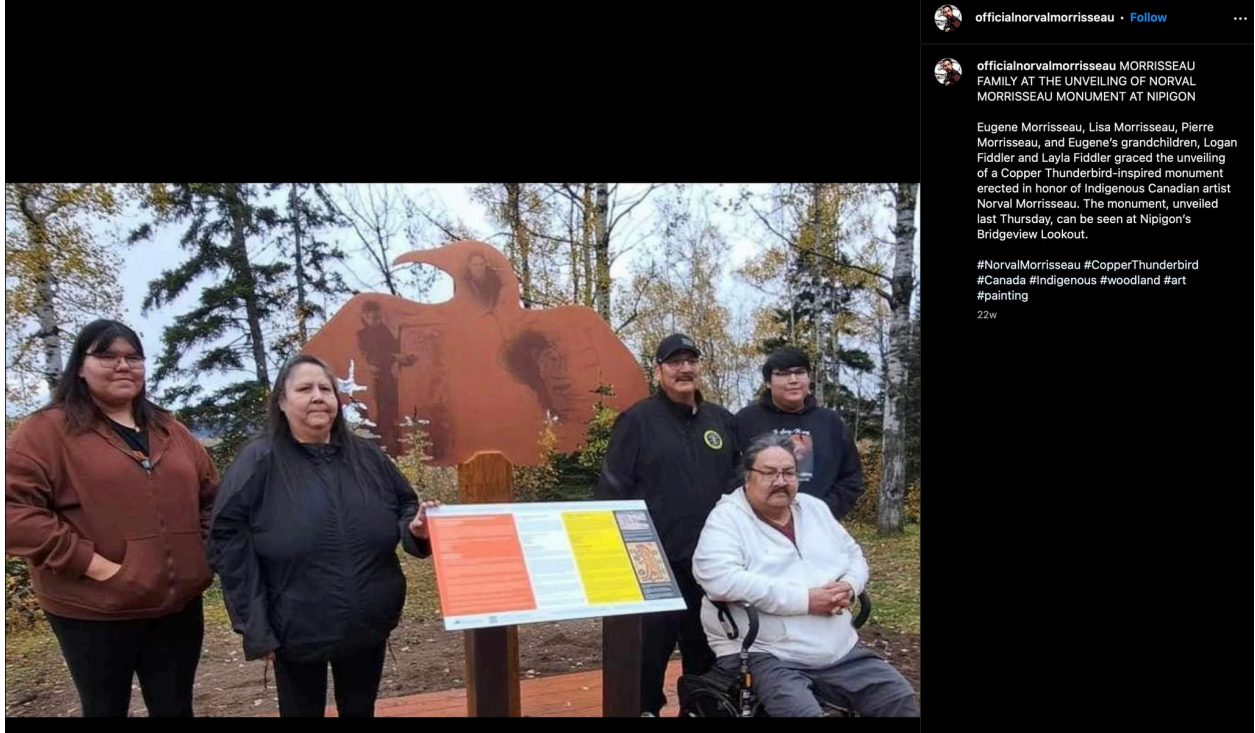

Lisa Morrisseau (Meekis)


Joshim Kakegamic

Letter signed by members of the Morrisseau Family Foundation, on the letterhead of the KEEWAYWIN FIRST NATION band office where LISA MORRISSEAU was employed. The letter supports Joseph McLeod and states "We do not believe there is a fraud ring." Additionally, they assert authenticity over McLeod catalogs of Morrisseau works including works which, Norval Morrisseau, their father, had himself declared to be fakes and imitations in Sworn Declarations.

You can find some of the Sworn Declarations by Norval Morrisseau here:

<https://www.sommer-law.ca/morrisseau-sworn-declarations>



officialnorvalmorrisseau · Follow

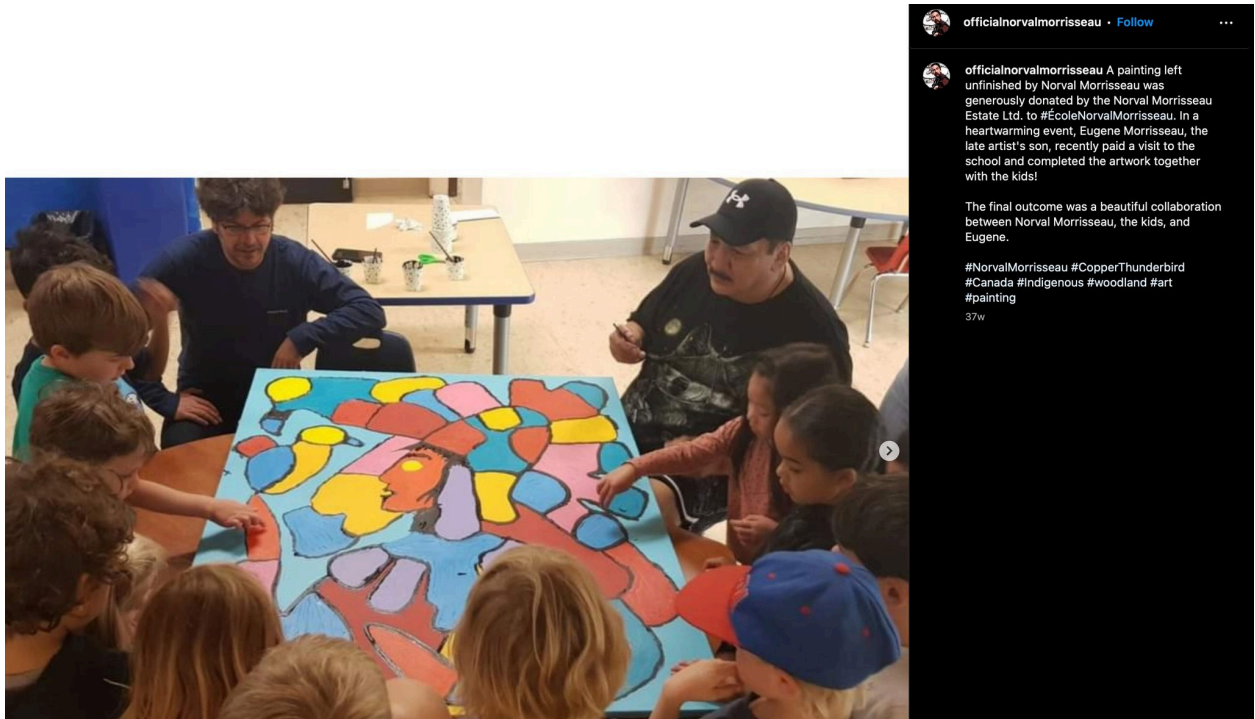
officialnorvalmorrisseau MORRISSEAU FAMILY AT THE UNVEILING OF NORVAL MORRISSEAU MONUMENT AT NIPIGON

Eugene Morrisseau, Lisa Morrisseau, Pierre Morrisseau, and Eugene's grandchildren, Logan Fiddler and Layla Fiddler graced the unveiling of a Copper Thunderbird-inspired monument erected in honor of Indigenous Canadian artist Norval Morrisseau. The monument, unveiled last Thursday, can be seen at Nipigon's Bridgeview Lookout.

#NorvalMorrisseau #CopperThunderbird #Canada #Indigenous #woodland #art #painting

22w

The children and former members of the Morrisseau Family Foundation at a recent memorial unveiling as posted by Official Morrisseau.



officialnorvalmorrisseau · Follow

officialnorvalmorrisseau A painting left unfinished by Norval Morrisseau was generously donated by the Norval Morrisseau Estate Ltd. to #EcoleNorvalMorrisseau. In a heartwarming event, Eugene Morrisseau, the late artist's son, recently paid a visit to the school and completed the artwork together with the kids!

The final outcome was a beautiful collaboration between Norval Morrisseau, the kids, and Eugene.

#NorvalMorrisseau #CopperThunderbird #Canada #Indigenous #woodland #art #painting

37w

Eugene Morrisseau painting with children on an unfinished Norval Morrisseau painting as posted by Official Morrisseau and organized and attended to by "Estate" CEO Cory Dingle