



WOODLAND
CULTURAL CENTRE

For immediate release

Woodland Cultural Centre Hosts Closing Reception for *You Are Not Forgotten* Quilt Exhibition

Brantford, ON, August 6, 2026 - Woodland Cultural Centre invites the public to attend the closing reception for *You Are Not Forgotten* on Friday, August 14, 2026.

The free public event marks the final evening of the exhibition and will feature special guest speaker Vanessa Génier, Founder and CEO of Quilts for Survivors, alongside **Survivors from the Mohawk Institute** and Shelley Clark, Culture Wellness Support with the Survivors' Secretariat.

Event Details

What: Closing Reception for *You Are Not Forgotten*

Date: Friday, August 14, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Location: Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk Street, Brantford, ON (Inside the former Mohawk Institute Residential School)

Admission: Free. Everyone is welcome.

Quilts for Survivors was founded in 2021 by Vanessa Génier, an Indigenous mother from Missanabie First Nation in Ontario and a passionate quilter who believes that a quilt is “love sewn together”—a source of warmth, comfort, care, and connection.

The discovery of 215 children in unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School deeply affected Génier. In response to this heartbreaking news and inspired by the belief that quilts can offer comfort and convey care, Génier envisioned creating handmade quilts for residential school Survivors and their families—gifts of recognition, compassion, and love during a time of deep collective grief. From that vision, Quilts for Survivors was born and has since brought comfort to 9,149 survivors or their family. Vanessa will be sharing her journey with us through a presentation involving storytelling along with an interactive Q&A portion with Survivors of the Mohawk Institute.

Shelley Clark, Culture Wellness Support, of the Survivors' Secretariat, will also speak on the mission of this Survivor-led community based organization.

The quilt exhibit *You Are Not Forgotten* will be on display this evening for its final showing. Please join us for this free public event as we journey together towards Good Mind, Good Words, Good Actions.

About the Exhibit:

The Piecemakers Quilt Club Six Nations and Grand River Quilt Project are collaborative textile initiatives rooted in storytelling, connection, and care bringing together communities through a shared act of quilting. While Piecemakers Quilt Club Six Nations, inspired by Génier's Quilts for Survivors movement, creates handmade quilts as meaningful gifts of comfort, recognition and respect for Residential School

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Survivors, the Grand River Quilt Project has gathered individually created quilt squares from communities along the Grand River reflecting on personal memories, creativity, and a sense of belonging. Supporting both of these efforts, Grandview Theatre Company is a local community-based theatre group dedicated to bringing people together through shared creative experiences while elevating diverse voices through collective artistic expression.

About the Woodland Cultural Centre:

The Woodland Cultural Centre is a First Nations educational and cultural centre that serves to preserve and promote Indigenous languages, cultures, art, and history. Located on the site of the former Mohawk Institute Residential School, the WCC strives to be a leading destination for cultural learning and understanding.

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