

## The Healing Path Ahead

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Reconciliation must support Aboriginal people as they heal from the destructive legacies of colonization that have wreaked such havoc in their lives. But it must do even more. Reconciliation must inspire Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share.

(Honouring the Truth, page 6)



## The Challenge of Reconciliation

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- Reconciliation must become a way of life.
- It will take many years to repair damaged trust and relationships in Aboriginal communities and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.
- Reconciliation not only requires apologies, reparations, and relearning of Canada's national history, and public commemorations, but also needs real social, political and economic change.
- Ongoing public education and dialogue are essential to reconciliation.
- Governments, churches, educational institutions, and Canadians from all walks of life are responsible for taking action on reconciliation in concrete ways, working collaboratively with Aboriginal peoples.
- Reconciliation begins with each and every one of us.

“Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future” (Page 185)

### Circles for Reconciliation

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## Circles for Reconciliation



Logo from: Belle Arnold, Wakka Wakka of Bundjalung Country, Australia

### Participation is free

We invite all members of the public to join us in a common dialogue to further understand the work arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

[www.CirclesForReconciliation.ca](http://www.CirclesForReconciliation.ca)

“Reconciliation cannot be left up to governments, the courts, and churches alone. There must also be dialogue and action in communities across the country. Reconciliation must happen across all sectors of Canadian society.”



## What will be Discussed?

- What is reconciliation?
- The history and impact of residential schools.
- Inter-generational trauma.
- The meaning of land for Indigenous People.
- The Sixties Scoop.
- Dispelling myths about Indigenous People.
- Métis Identity and Nationhood.
- Indigenous Spiritualities.
- Call to Business.
- After the Circles: Practising solidarity and living reconciliation.

## Principles Guiding Circles for Reconciliation

The Advisory Committee for this project is a partnership, composed of an equal number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons sharing the common interest to achieve reconciliation and equality of opportunity for Indigenous People in Canada. Circles for Reconciliation wishes to tap into the wisdom of the everyday people in our society, providing a meaningful educational opportunity.

The discussions will be grounded in the Seven Sacred Teachings of the Anishinaabe. Respect, patience and courtesy are to be the hallmarks of the groups as stated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. The four guiding principles for the new relationship are “mutual recognition, mutual respect, sharing, and mutual responsibility.”

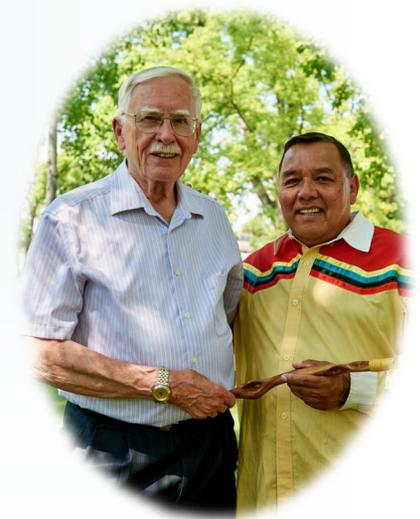
We are attracting individuals as well as groups to participate. Groups include including faith groups, corporations, educational institutions, social service agencies, and service clubs. Circles are composed of 10 participants and two trained facilitators. Each circle meets ten times with the average meeting time about 75 minutes.

## Reconciliation at the Crossroads

“To some people, *reconciliation* is the re-establishment of a conciliatory state. However, this is a state that many Aboriginal people assert never has existed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. To others, reconciliation, in the context of Indian residential schools, is similar to dealing with a situation of family violence. It’s about coming to terms with events of the past in a manner that overcomes conflict and establishes a respectful and healthy relationship among people, going forward.” (taken from the final report of the TRC)

As of August, 2018,

- ***we have hosted 420 individual circle meetings***
- ***involving over 1050 people***
- ***in over 4800 hours of discussion on reconciliation***



Courtesy of  
the Winnipeg Foundation