



Circles for Reconciliation Inc

Zoom Circles Schedule of Topics

Date	Theme	Recommended resources: readings and videos Your Facilitators, in consultation with participants, can modify the themes to be explored in your Circle. This includes some “themes” that participants can read on their own. It also includes some videos which could be watched privately, or could be introduced into actual circle meetings. A much longer list of relevant videos is in our “Resources” section of our website.
Prior to first meeting		<input type="checkbox"/> Practice access to zoom if necessary. Log in 30 minutes in advance of first meeting to be sure any technical problems are solved.
Week 1	Intro to Circles Theme: Getting to Know You	Order of the opening of each Circle meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Land acknowledgment <input type="checkbox"/> Drumming <input type="checkbox"/> Seven Sacred teaching of the Anishinaabe, <input type="checkbox"/> Observe a minute of silence. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals may wish to smudge in their home, or simply acknowledge our creator and open our hearts to one another.
Week 2	Theme: “Dispelling the Misconceptions of Indigenous People”	<input type="checkbox"/> We recommend that you read prior to the circle, our Theme entitled “Canadian Public Opinion on Aboriginal Peoples.” <input type="checkbox"/> <i>11 facts about the gap between First Nations and the rest of Canada:</i> The Globe and Mail's Sherrill Sutherland takes a look at the disconcerting gap in education, wealth and health between First Nations people and the rest of Canada. Published by the Globe and Mail, February 9, 2015, 2:26 minutes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWK6ChJw8hs To open, right click, then “open hyperlink”
Week 3	<input type="checkbox"/> “Psychological and Intergenerational Impact of the Indian Residential Schools,” The soul wounds of the Anishinabec.	<input type="checkbox"/> For anyone experiencing trauma, there is the National Aboriginal Health Crisis line; 1-866-925-4419 <input type="checkbox"/> See our website. “Resources/Manitoba, Crisis Intervention Resources” There are similar resources in your region.
Week 4	Theme: Reconciliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended: “Murray Sinclair’s talk on the Royal Proclamation, 1763” 30.5 minutes. This Royal Proclamation is referred to in Canadian Constitution Act of 1982, Section 25. See “Resources” on our website. Strongly recommend.

Week 5	Theme: Meaning of Land for Indigenous People	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Land Owns Us</i> . An Australian video about what it means to be in relationship with the land. Bob Randall, of the stolen generation is a Yankunytjatjara elder and traditional owner of Uluru (Ayer's Rock), explains how the connectedness of every living thing to every other living thing is not just an idea but a way of living. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0sWIVR1hXw 6.14 minutes . To open, right click then “open hyperlink.”
Week 6	Theme: The Treaties	
Week 7	Theme: Metis Identity and Nationhood	<input type="checkbox"/> There are five themes on different aspects of Métis people on our website. We encourage you to read them. In 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that tens of thousands of Métis and non-status Indians are now the responsibility of the federal government. However, no funding was attached to this decision.
<p><i>The first of the 11 signed treaties was in 1871, and the last was in 1921. Shortly following the signing of Treaty #1, the governments of the time began to enact laws or policies to undermine the intent of the Treaties, which are to be in effect, “as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and the grass grows.” We will explore these policies in the following weeks.</i></p>		
Week 8	The Indian Act	<input type="checkbox"/> See the book, Bob Joseph: “21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act.”
<p><i>At least six other significant policies or practices have seriously harmed Indigenous people. 1. Residential Schools, 2. the Pass System, 3. the Sixties Scoop, 4. The Justice System, 5. The Child Welfare System, 6. Lack of coherent policy on MMIWG. We currently have Themes available on the first four. In week 9 we propose to review briefly each of these violations in a theme entitled “Violations of the spirit of the Treaties.”</i></p>		
Week 9	Theme: Summary theme: “Violations of the Spirit of the Treaties”	<input type="checkbox"/> We encourage participants to read the individual themes on each of these topics on their own. See “Themes” section of our website. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Namwayut: we are all one. Truth and reconciliation in Canada</i> . Animated video of Chief Robert Joseph telling his story of being taken away to Residential schools. Very good video put out by CBC, Dec. 18, 2017, 4:21 minutes. https://youtu.be/2zuRQmwaREY , to open, right click, then “open hyperlink” <input type="checkbox"/> “Combatting Racism in Canada,” narrated by Pam Palmater, 2020 10 minutes See our “resources” on our website.
Week 10	Theme: “After the Circle: Practicing Solidarity and Living Reconciliation”	<input type="checkbox"/> “Hope” Video. Found in the “Theme” section of our website. Very Manitoba focused. <input type="checkbox"/> Be sure to review suggested calls to action as part of our theme.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Be sure to invite participants to agree to the Ethics Policy form and to complete the survey.
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Suggested Readings

For those who wish to delve more deeply into history, in readings that are straightforward and totally engaging, here are a few additional suggestions.

Bob Joseph, “21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act.” Indigenous Relations Press, 2018
Restrictions imposed at some point by the Indian Act in its 140 years of existence

Thomas King, *The Inconvenient Indian, a Curious Account of Native People In North America.*
(Toronto: Doubleday, 2012). In a witty, very readable fashion, Thomas King

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *The Survivors Speak.* (2015). www.trc.ca A must read for those wanting to hear the voices of survivors.

Chelsea Vowel, *Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Metis and Inuit Issues in Canada.*
(Winnipeg: Highwater Press, 2016). A simple guidebook around the myths, misperceptions and arguments that surround understandings of Indigenous peoples and politics.

Nancy Dyson & Dan Rubenstein, “*St. Michael’s Residential School, Lament and legacy.*” (Vancouver, Ronsdale Press, 2021). A couple’s searing account of four months working as childcare workers in a Residential School. They were fired!

Theodore Fontaine, “*Broken Circle, the Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools.*” (Vancouver: Heritage House Publishing, 2010). The impact of 12 years in two Residential Schools and their life-long impact.

Aime Craft, *Breathing Life into the Stone Fort Treaty, an Anishinaabe Understanding of Treaty 1.*
(Saskatoon: Purich Publishing Limited, 2013). Aimée Craft’s book helps us understand how Anishinaabe laws defined Treaty One negotiations. It is an important introduction to the Treaty from an Indigenous perspective.