

IT'S TIME FOR
RECONCILIATION

MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2015

**TRC CLOSING EVENT PROGRAM
OTTAWA-GATINEAU**



**Truth and
Reconciliation**
Commission of Canada

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HEALTH CANADA IRS RESOLUTION SUPPORT PROGRAM

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WELCOME

On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, welcome to the closing events of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Together with our partners and supporters, the Commission has organized a number of important events designed to mark the closing of our work while challenging us all to find a new beginning.



Over the past 7 years, we have heard personal accounts and testimony from thousands of Survivors of Canada's residential school system. We have worked tirelessly collecting and recording documents from the 139 schools and more than 150,000 Aboriginal people affected by this dark chapter in our history.

The effects of residential schools echo in the lives of thousands of Aboriginal people and their families. We see these effects in areas of education, health, wellness, families, culture and justice and for many non-Aboriginal people this period is met with deep shame. To confront this past is to take an important step toward healing. Now we take pause and reflect on this humbling and revealing work, to acknowledge past wrongs and imagine a way forward.

We can restore this trust and form a new relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. And taking responsibility for our past, we can shape a new future. The path ahead will not be easy, nor should it be. But we must remember that ours is a shared future and the actions we take today will have major impact.

As the Commission's work comes to a close, we encourage all participants to remember that the real work of reconciliation is only beginning and that the task of reconciliation will be carried out by our children and future generations, whose duty it will be to move reconciliation from belief to reality.

It has been our great honour to be a part of this important and challenging process. We are grateful for those who have dedicated their time and energy compiling this information and creating these reports. Mostly, we thank the thousands of men and women who had the courage to come forward and share their stories with us. The courage required to participate in our work is beyond imagining.

Thank you for joining us this week as we take this first step and thank you to committing to helping us undertake this important work.

Sincerely,

Justice Murray Sinclair
Chair

Chief Wilton Littlechild
Commissioner

Dr. Marie Wilson
Commissioner

HIGHLIGHTS

Walk for Reconciliation – May 31, 2015 from École secondaire de l'Île in Gatineau to Marion Dewar Plaza (Ottawa City Hall)

Join thousands of walkers on May 31, 2015 as we walk in solidarity with Survivors of Indian Residential Schools and take a stand for better relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians; relations built on respect, understanding and hope for a better future for all Canadians.


Lighting of the Sacred Fire – May 31, 2015 on Victoria Island (no cameras please).

Film Screening – Evenings of May 31 and June 1, 2015 at the National Gallery.

Filmmakers will be on hand for a brief discussion after the screening.

Actions of Reconciliation – June 1, 2015 at the Delta Ottawa

As the TRC mandate draws to an end, national organizations are invited to state their commitment to continued efforts towards reconciliation.



Anglican school in Fort George. The General Synod Archives/Anglican Church of Canada/ Archives de l'Église anglicane du Canada.

Statement Gathering – June 1-2, 2015 at the Delta Ottawa

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission wants to hear from everyone who has been affected by the Indian Residential Schools. That includes Survivors of the schools, their families, community members – anyone whose life has been affected by the schools and their legacy.

Honorary Witness Induction Ceremony – June 1-2, 2015 at the Delta Ottawa

Honorary Witnesses are public figures who take on a special responsibility for sharing the TRC's message of truth-telling and reconciliation. In fact, we are all invited to be witnesses – to listen carefully to the truths that are shared and to share them with those that we know when we return to our own homes and communities. New Honorary Witnesses will be inducted during the Ottawa Closing Event.

Sharing Circles with Survivor Committee Members – June 1-2, 2015 at the Delta Ottawa

Share your truth with others in a Sharing Circle facilitated by a member of the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee.

Learning Place – June 1-2, 2015 at the Delta Ottawa

Spend some time learning about the schools that Aboriginal children attended in Ontario, and about the effect this experience had on the lives of these children as they became adults.

Archival Displays – June 1-2, 2015 at the Delta Ottawa

Look through historic photographs of students and schools from the archives of the church entities that operated the Indian Residential Schools, as well as Library and Archives Canada and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Education Day – June 1, 2015

A full day of varied programming designed for elementary, junior high and high school students. This program occurs off-site. Pre-registration is required.

Release of TRC Findings – June 2, 2015 at the Delta Ottawa

TRC Commissioners will release their findings on Indian Residential Schools. Join in person at the Delta Ottawa, or tune in via webcast for this historic event.

Honouring Memories – Planting Dreams – June 3, 2015 at Rideau Hall

Join children and youth from across the region of Ottawa as they team up with guests at Rideau Hall for an honouring ceremony and planting a Garden of Hearts in memory of children that went missing while at residential school.



Cecilia Jeffrey school in Kenora, Ontario,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives.

denotes off-site events

SUNDAY, MAY 31

THEME: "WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER"

Sunrise <i>(approx. 4:30AM)</i>	Lighting of the Sacred Fire Ceremony Pipe Ceremony and Water Ceremony	Victoria Island
11:15AM	Walk for Reconciliation Stage Program	École secondaire de l'Île 255 Saint-Rédempteur St. Gatineau, QC
Noon	Start of Walk for Reconciliation	École secondaire de l'Île 255 Saint-Rédempteur St. Gatineau, QC
12:30PM <i>(approximate)</i>	Start of Walk for Reconciliation Short Route	Victoria Island
1:00PM - 5:00PM	Stage Program and Entertainment featuring Elisapie Isaac, Digging Roots and Amanda Rhéaume	Marion Dewar Plaza 110 Laurier Ave. West Ottawa, ON
7:00PM	Film Screening and Discussion Panel "Trick or Treaty" by Alanis Obomsawin	National Gallery of Canada 380 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, ON

MONDAY, JUNE 1

THEME: "WE STILL HAVE LOTS TO LEARN"

8:30AM - 9:30AM	Grand Entry, Opening Prayer, Welcome and Induction of Honorary Witnesses	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
9:00AM - 2:30PM	Education Day For pre-registered school groups only	EY Centre
9:00AM - 4:00PM	Walking with our Sisters Memorial for Survivors of Residential Schools	Delta Ottawa - Cartier Room
9:00AM - Noon	Sharing Circle with Survivor Committee Members	Delta Ottawa - Pinnacle and Panorama Rooms
9:00AM - 5:00PM	Private Statement Gathering (Registration on Penthouse Level Foyer)	Delta Ottawa - Penthouse Level
9:00AM - 5:00PM	Learning Place	Delta Ottawa - Lobby
9:00AM - 5:00PM	Archival Displays	Delta Ottawa-Richelieu Room
9:00AM - 10:30AM	KAIROS Blanket Exercise	Delta Ottawa - Frontenac Room
10:30AM - Noon	KAIROS Blanket Exercise	Delta Ottawa - Frontenac Room
10:30AM - Noon	Actions of Reconciliation	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
Noon	Update on Day Schools Litigation	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
1:00PM - 2:30PM	Pike Head Teachings	Delta Ottawa - Frontenac Room
1:00PM - 2:45PM	Panel: The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Justice, Reconciliation and Hope	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
2:00PM - 5:00PM	Sharing Circle with Survivor Committee Members	Delta Ottawa - Pinnacle and Panorama Rooms
3:15PM - 4:30PM	Inspiring Reconciliation: Creating a New Way Forward.	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
3:30PM - 5:00PM	Legacy of Hope Foundation Book Launch	Delta Ottawa - Frontenac Room
3:30PM - 5:00PM	Childhood Paintings from the Alberni Indian Residential School: A story of return and reconciliation.	Museum of History, Gatineau, QC Douglas Cardinal Room
7:00PM Doors open	Reconciliation Through the Arts Royal Winnipeg Ballet brief performance of 'Going Home Star' followed by a discussion panel (By invitation)	The Studio - National Arts Centre
7:30 Start		
7:00PM - 8:30PM	Play: The Voice of Silence (La voix du silence)	Marion Dewar Plaza

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

THEME: "RECONCILIATION IS ABOUT RESPECT AND CHANGE"

8:30AM -9:00AM	Welcome and Induction of Honorary Witnesses	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
9:00AM - 10:45AM	Honorary Witness Talking Circle	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
9:00AM - Noon	Sharing Circle with Survivor Committee Members	Delta Ottawa - Pinnacle and Panorama Rooms
9:00AM - 5:00PM	Private Statement Gathering (registration on Penthouse Level Foyer)	Delta Ottawa - Penthouse Level
9:00AM - 5:00PM	Learning Place	Delta Ottawa - Lobby
9:00AM - 5:00PM	Archival Displays	Delta Ottawa - Richelieu Room
10:45AM - 11:00AM	Reconciliation Across Canada: an update from the Atlantic and Edmonton	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
11:00AM - 12:30PM	Release of TRC Findings on Indian Residential Schools	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
1:00PM - 2:30PM	Response from Parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
2:45PM - 3:00PM	Reconciliation Across Canada: an update from Vancouver and Winnipeg	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
3:00PM - 4:30PM	Accepting the Challenge: Reconciliation Going Forward	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
7:00PM - 9:00PM	Talent Night	Marion Dewar Plaza
7:00PM - 9:30PM	Film Screening and Discussion Panel "Older than America" by Georgina Lightning	National Gallery of Canada 380 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, ON

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

THEME: "THIS ENDING IS JUST THE BEGINNING"

9:00AM - Noon	Presentation of "Healing with Humour and Music"	Delta Ottawa - Ballroom
Noon	Ceremonial Close to TRC & Honouring Ceremony (Invited Guests)	Rideau Hall
1:30PM	Honouring Memories - Planting Dreams Ceremony (Open to public)	Rideau Hall
2:30PM	Final Call to Gather	Marion Dewar Plaza
3:30PM	Round Dance	Marion Dewar Plaza
4:00PM - 5:00PM	Buffy Sainte-Marie in Concert	Marion Dewar Plaza

SACRED FIRE

The lighting of the Sacred Fire in June 2010 at the start of the TRC's first National Event, in Winnipeg, MB, was an emotional beginning to a landmark event, and a symbol of strength and warmth for everyone who participated. Ashes from the Winnipeg Sacred Fire were transported by members of the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee to Inuvik, NT, where they were added to the Sacred Fire that burned during the TRC Northern National Event in June/July 2011. From there, ashes were taken to the Atlantic National Event in Halifax (October 2011), to the Saskatchewan National Event in Saskatoon (June 2012), to the Quebec National Event in Montreal (April 2013) and the British Columbia National Event in Vancouver (September 2013). At the close of the BC National Event, ashes from the Sacred Fire were entrusted to Chief Wilton Littlechild, Alberta Representative on the TRC Survivor Committee. They were added to the Sacred Fire that burned in Edmonton for the duration of the TRC Alberta National Event. Ashes from all TRC National Events will be added to the Sacred Fire on Victoria Island.

The Lighting of the Sacred Fire happens before we begin each National Event to ensure that the Spirits and the Teachings guide and protect us while the Commission does its work.

At the TRC closing ceremonies in Ottawa May 31-June 3, the Sacred Fire will be located on Victoria Island, and will be left to burn itself out at the conclusion of the Final Call to Gather.



BENTWOOD BOX

The **TRC Bentwood Box** reflects the strength and resilience of Residential School Survivors and their descendants, and honours those Survivors who are no longer living. The Box has travelled with the TRC to all of its seven National Events throughout Canada, where offerings were made to it to commemorate personal journeys toward healing and reconciliation. At the end of the TRC's mandate, the Bentwood Box will be retired in ceremony, and then housed in the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. At the Closing Events in Ottawa the Bentwood Box will be on site for the and during the Actions of Reconciliation, it will be opened to receive offerings.

Carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston, the TRC Bentwood Box is a lasting tribute to all Indian Residential School Survivors. Steamed and bent from a single piece of red cedar, the carved panels represent the unique cultures of former First Nations, Inuit and Métis students. The artist pays respect to his own grandmother by depicting her residential schools experiences at Kuper Island in the carvings.



SERVICES

SURVIVOR LOUNGE This is a space where Survivors are welcome to rest and relax. It is open all day.

DATES: May 31 - June 2

HOURS: 8am-5pm

LOCATION: Delta Ottawa - Bytowne Room

SUPPORT AREA FOR SURVIVORS This is a designated area for Survivors to access Elders who can provide cultural support services.

DATES: June 1-2

HOURS: 8am-5pm

LOCATION: Delta Ottawa - Joliet Room

HEALTH SUPPORT ON SITE Health Canada Health Support Workers are available on site. Wearing orange vests, they are here to provide immediate support through individual or family counselling, cultural supports such as Elders, or Aboriginal health support workers who will listen and provide information.

PARAMEDICS are available onsite at the Delta Ottawa and Marion Dewar Plaza

DATES: May 31, June 1-3

INFORMATION BOOTH Staff and Volunteers will be on site to assist you with any questions you may have. Also located here is transportation information and the Lost and Found.

HOURS: 9am – 5pm

LOCATION: Delta Ottawa - Lobby

INTERPRETATION SERVICES All activities that take place in the Ballroom will offer interpretation services in French and English.

LOCATION: Delta Ottawa Ballroom

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to all Survivors who traveled from near and far to share their truth and to everyone who has come to witness this important occasion. On behalf of the Survivors and the TRC, we would like to thank all those who supported and contributed to the success of the Closing Event in Ottawa-Gatineau.



Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

ATCO

ALWAYS THERE. ANYWHERE.



**CANADIAN
PACIFIC**

City of Ottawa
City of Gatineau

The United Church of Canada
The Anglican Church of Canada
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa

The Jesuits of Canada
KAIROS
Catholic Archdiocese of Gatineau
Inter Pares

We would also like to express our appreciation to the volunteers that contributed to the success of the TRC Closing Event.

For a complete listing of the organizations that contributed visit trc.ca



TRC Indian Residential School
Survivor Committee (IRSSC)
This committee serves as an advisory body to the TRC.

back L-R: John Banksland, John Morrisseau, Eugene Arcand, Madeleine Basile, Lottie May Johnson, Rebekah Uqi Williams
front L-R: TRC Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild, Doris Young, Barney Williams Jr., Gordon Williams, Terri Brown