

150 Acts of Reconciliation for the Last 150 Days of Canada's 150

Two researchers at the University of Alberta have collaborated to compile a list of ways for average Canadians to take action in the spirit of reconciliation. Most of these are small, everyday acts, but others are more provocative ideas to encourage people to think about Indigenous-settler relationships in new ways.

The full list is available at www.activehistory.ca



What is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was a commission like none other in Canada. The TRC spent six years travelling to all parts of Canada to hear from Aboriginal people affected by the often forcible removal of children from their families who were placed for much of their childhoods in residential schools.

Learn more and keep in touch

Truth and Reconciliation Commission
www.trc.ca

AUPE Human Rights Committee
www.aupe.org/my-aupe/committees/human-rights/



Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
10451 - 170 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5P 4S7
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www.aupe.org



Photos:
The United Church of Canada
General Council

Left: *Closing Ceremony*
Below: *Lorna Standingready supports a fellow survivor*
Right: *Leading Elder Lorna Standingready and Marie Wilson*
Cover: *The Bentwood Box*

How can I support the work of the TRC?

Learning about the past is important because what has happened affects our collective present and our future. The Government of Alberta has committed to renewing its relationship with Indigenous people based on trust and respectful engagement, but individual Albertans also have an important role to play.

You can start by visiting the TRC website (www.trc.ca) to read the reports and calls to action and explore the many other resources gathered there.

You can also seek out training opportunities through your union, your employer and your community, or request them if they are not yet available. Participate with Indigenous organizations or communities in the spirit of reconciliation.

What did the TRC say?

The TRC documents the experiences of more than 6,000 witnesses, and assesses the impact of residential schools as a central element of a policy of cultural genocide. Residential schools were created for the purpose of separating Aboriginal children from their families, in order to minimize and weaken family ties and cultural linkages and to indoctrinate children into a new culture. Children were abused, physically and sexually, and they died in the schools in numbers that would not have been tolerated in any other school system in the country, or in the world.

The Commission also asked, “Now that we know about residential schools and their legacy, what do we do about it?” The Commission’s extensive “Calls to action” seek to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation.



Why does this matter?

All Canadians must now demonstrate courage and determination, as we commit to an ongoing process of reconciliation. By establishing a new and respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, we will restore what must be restored, repair what must be repaired, and return what must be returned.

Getting to the truth was hard, but getting to reconciliation will be harder. It requires the paternalistic and racist foundations of the residential school system be rejected as the basis for an ongoing relationship. Reconciliation requires a new vision be developed, based on a commitment to mutual respect. Many aspects of Canadian society may need to be reconsidered.

