



Qalipu
FIRST NATION

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Support for Reconciliation





Reconciliation Framework

- A Reconciliation framework is one in which Canada's political and legal systems, educational and religious institutions, corporate sector, and civil society function in ways that are consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*, which Canada has endorsed. UNDRIP is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society.

Truth and Reconciliation Historical Context

- **Several countries trying to move beyond the legacy of human rights abuses involving native peoples have undertaken truth-seeking and reconciliation efforts.**
- Australia: Governments and churches forced assimilation and conversion to Christianity by placing children in training institutes to become manual and domestic labourers. Malnutrition and sexual abuse were common.
- New Zealand: Education was used to civilize and convert Maori children as early as 1840.
- Northern Europe: Missionaries established Christian schools during the 17th century encouraging the Indigenous Sami people to give up their language. It was a traumatic experience for many.

Historical Context Continued

- Greenland: Danish settlers established community-based schools and boarding schools for the Inuit population and both played a role in the attempt to erase Greenland's culture. These schools were initially run by the church.
- South Africa: Established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995 to investigate human rights abuse during apartheid. The process featured testimony from people subjected to torture and some who had family members who were killed.

Truth and Reconciliation Defined

- **Truth:** What happened and is still happening in the relationship between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Canadians. Particularly, what happened and is still happening in the relationship between Indigenous People and Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments and the Churches.
- **Reconciliation:** The acknowledgement and acceptance by all Canadians regarding what happened and is still happening in these relationships (the Truth), and having the willingness for atonement, moving forward in the spirit of mutual respect and positive change.

Why a Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

- Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in 2008 through a legal settlement between Residential School Survivors, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit representatives and the parties responsible for creation and operation of residential schools – the Federal Government and church bodies.
- The TRC presented its Final Report at Parliament Hill in Ottawa in December 2015.

The Residential School System in Canada

- Canadian Residential Schools were religious-based institutions established by the Canadian government in the 19th and 20th centuries. From 1831 to 1996 there were 139 residential schools in Canada. The goal of these schools was to assimilate Indigenous children into the dominant Canadian culture by forcing them to abandon their own traditions and cultures. Children were taken from their families and communities and sent to live in the schools, often for years at a time. These children were subjected to physical, emotional and sexual abuse and were denied access to their cultural heritage and language.
- Intent: “Kill the Indian in the Child”!

Terrifying Truths about Residential Schools

- Approximately 160,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend.
- Approximately 6,000 children died while attending residential schools.
- As of January 2023, 2,472 suspected unmarked graves have been discovered on the grounds of former residential schools.
- Residential Schools characterized by:
 - Forced Assimilation Sexual abuse
 - Separation from Family Frequent student deaths
 - Poor quality of life Failure to provide adequate education and training
 - Subjection to nutritional experiments Occasional resistance by students
 - Cruel Punishments Cycles of family abuse over generations

Truth and Reconciliation Report

- The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) presented in 2015 included 10 Principles for Reconciliation and 94 Calls to Action as a way of moving forward with the Reconciliation process.

Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners



The Honourable Murray
Sinclair



Wilton Littlechild



Dr. Marie Wilson, C.M.,
O.N.W.T., M.S.C.



Truth and Reconciliation

- Promotes the belief that confronting and reckoning with past actions and relationships are necessary for successful transitions from conflict, mistreatment, resentment and tension to a state of peace, respect and improved relations.
- Senator Murray Sinclair, Chairperson of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission stated, **“for reconciliation to work, and for our relationship to be renewed, there must be awareness, acceptance, apology, atonement and action”.** (Reconciliation)

The Truth!

- Avoidance is not a pathway to Reconciliation.
- Reconciliation requires sincere and respectful engagement.





Ten Principles of Reconciliation

1. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is the framework for Reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society.
2. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.



Principles of Reconciliation Cont'd

3. Reconciliation is a process of healing relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
4. Reconciliation requires constructive action in addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Aboriginal Peoples education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.



Principles of Reconciliation Cont'd

5. Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.
6. All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.
7. The perspectives and understandings of Aboriginal Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.



Principles of Reconciliation Cont'd

8. Supporting Aboriginal peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.
9. Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.



Principles of Reconciliation Cont'd

10. Reconciliation requires sustained public education and dialogue, including youth engagement, about the history and legacy of residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal rights, as well as the historical and contemporary contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian society.

- Together, Canadians must do more than just *talk* about reconciliation; we must learn how to practise reconciliation in our everyday lives—within ourselves and our families, and in our communities, governments, places of worship, schools, and workplaces. To do so constructively, Canadians must remain committed to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships.

Our Province and Reconciliation

- Premier Andrew Furey and Government clearly support and promote Reconciliation.
- Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation – Honorable Lisa Dempster.
- Repatriation of Beothuk remains from the Museum of Scotland.
- Renaming “Red Indian Lake” to “Beothuk Lake”.
- Erecting Beothuk statue at Confederation Building.
- Establishing Provincial holiday in conjunction with National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Recognizes National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Annual Premier’s Indigenous Roundtable.
- Premier’s weekly conference call with Province’s Indigenous leaders.
- Focus on Reconciliation during Royal visit in May, 2022.

Cause of Death in Residential Schools

- The main cause of death in Residential Schools was a combination of disease and malnutrition. Residential schools were overcrowded and lacked adequate sanitation, leading to the spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, influenza and measles. Many children suffered from malnutrition due to inadequate nutrition and lack of medical care. As a result, many died from malnutrition or disease-related complications. In addition to these factors, there were reports of physical and sexual abuse in some residential schools which may have played a role in the deaths of some students.

Cultural Celebration



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5/18/2023