HONOURING MEMORIES

Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams (HMPD) is an annual event celebrated in spring, where people of all ages across the country can plant heart gardens in memory of the children lost to the Indian Residential School System and to honour residential school survivors and their families and the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

Background

On June 3, 2015 at Rideau Hall, the inaugural HMPD event took place as part of the closing ceremonies of the TRC. Over 400 children planted hearts in this special, temporary heart garden and in the same year more than 6,000 hearts in over 80 heart gardens were planted across Canada in support.

In 2016, Honouring Memories Planting Dreams officially became an annual event. More than 5,000 hearts were planted and over 1,300 letters were sent to elected officials asking them to be reconciliation champions and to give First Nations children the childhood they deserve.

Getting Involved

In 2017 with Canada's 150th birthday, we invite individuals across Canada to reflect on what 150 years looks like for a First Nations child and what this anniversary means for them. In doing so, we encourage people of all ages to create their very own heart garden.

With help from community members, children affix hearts to planting sticks and place them in heart gardens to pledge their commitment to reconciliation. In addition to decorated hearts, HMPD bookmarks (available from the Caring Society) are equipped with seed paper that you can remove, plant, water and grow wildflowers for your garden. More permanent heart gardens can include various flowers, and where appropriate, Indigenous plants and medicines. If you plan on planting sacred medicines, be sure to ask an Elder on how to care for the plants so that they can grow up to be healthy and proud over the years.

HMPD is an opportune event to highlight the importance of reconciliation and that every child matters.

Learn more at honouringmemoriesplantingdreams.ca