

Reconciliation in Canada

Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous Children, Youth, and Families

Relating

Moving forward together in a respectful way, along a new path, to achieve better outcomes for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities

Restoring

Doing what we can to redress the harm and making changes to ensure it does not happen again



Truth Telling

Telling the story of residential schools and Canada's history as they have affected and continue to affect First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, youth, families and communities

Acknowledging

Learning from the past, seeing one another with new understanding, and recognizing the need to move forward on a new path

TOUCHSTONES OF HOPE

Principles to Guide Reconciliation in Canada

Culture and Language

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures are ingrained in all theory, research, policy, and practice that affect their communities.
- Guidelines and evaluation processes for culturally appropriate services are established by Indigenous communities, reflecting local culture and context.
- Policy and practice affecting Indigenous children, youth and families reflect and reinforce the intrinsic and distinct aspects of Indigenous cultures.
- Language is recognized as the essence of culture; knowledge, policy, and practice are expressed in the language of the community served.

Holistic Approach

- Approaches to working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities recognize and reflect the distinct realities of the whole community including culture (traditions, spirituality, and social customs), language, environment and socioeconomic factors.
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples work effectively together and support one another in respectful and non-discriminatory ways. Our common goal is ensuring the best outcomes for Indigenous children and families.
- We have a responsibility to take care of one another as human beings and this means taking opportunities to uplift one another in building a Canada based on fairness and love.

Self-Determination

- Indigenous peoples make the decisions that affect their communities and lead the development of laws, policies, research, and practice.
- Adequate and sustained resources are provided to Indigenous communities, allowing them to be self-determined.
- We listen to and value the voices of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth in making decisions and participating in change for Indigenous communities.
- People and organizations throughout the country work with Indigenous peoples to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Actions for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

Structural Interventions

- We stand up to injustices to protect the rights of all Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, including children and youth.
- People across the country support culturally-based equity for First Nations children on reserves and in the Yukon and support initiatives like Shannen's Dream, Jordan's Principle and I am a Witness campaigns.
- Programs, services and policy affecting Indigenous communities take into account the multigenerational impacts of residential schools. This is an important step in reconciliation and understanding one another.
- Federal and provincial legislation and policies affecting Indigenous communities are based on the TRC's Calls to Action.

Non Discrimination

- Indigenous children and youth receiving services should not receive inferior services because they are Indigenous.
- Indigenous peoples are entitled to equal access to resources and services that are responsive to their needs, and the unique cultural context of their experience.
- We uplift each other in reconciliation to diffuse stereotypes and learn more about the unique cultures and traditions of Inuit, Métis and First Nations.
- Indigenous ways of knowledge are given full credence when work is carried out with Indigenous peoples.
- We respect each other's worldviews and treat each other with dignity and respect, regardless of differences, leading to a better Canada for all.