

Touchstones of Hope for Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal communities, reflecting local culture and context.
- Policy and practice affecting Aboriginal children, youth and families reflect and reinforce the intrinsic and distinct aspects of Aboriginal 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.
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples work effectively together and support one another in respectful and non-discriminatory ways. Our common goal is ensuring the best outcomes for Aboriginal 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

- Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal communities, allowing them to be self-determined.
- We listen to and value the voices of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and youth in making decisions and participating in change for Aboriginal communities.
- People and organizations throughout the country work with Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal communities are based on the TRC's Calls to Action.

Non Discrimination

- Aboriginal children and youth receiving services should not receive inferior services because they are Aboriginal.
- Aboriginal 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.
- Aboriginal ways of knowledge are given full credence when work is carried out with Aboriginal 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.

