

RESOURCES

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Introduction

This is the first year Canada will mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #80 – *"We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."*

We have put together this list of resources for staff learning and reflection. Some of these resources staff have read/watched/listened to, and others were recommended to us.

Sometimes learning more about the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, particularly the *Indian Act* and the residential schools, can cause feelings of anger and/or helplessness. In these moments, it can be helpful to refer to Bob Joseph's (*21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act*) list of actions you can take to help promote healing and reconciliation. You can find this list at the end of this document.

Courses

1. Introduction to Indigenous Peoples' cultures

This free 60-minute on-demand course was developed by Simon Brascoupe for Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA)

From the registration: "This course was developed to provide the writers and facilitators of CPA education programs, cases and examinations with insight, knowledge and skills to better understand the perspectives of Indigenous students, to help support their success. It will provide all learners with a valuable introduction into the deep cultural and historical foundations upon which the future prosperity of Indigenous communities must be built. You will learn about:

- The history of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples
- Colonialism on Indigenous communities and economies from an Indigenous perspective
- How culturally sensitive health care models help inform how accounting and finance education can be inclusive and supportive"

2. Indigenous Canada

A free MOOC on Coursera's website created by the University of Alberta Native Studies faculty. From their website: "Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course

(MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions.”

3. Reconciliation Education

A paid online course, but there are free “seats” available each month.

From their website: “With our 3-hour, multimedia course, you can learn about the history and culture of Indigenous communities in Canada, the history of residential schools, and treaties around the country. Our course is interactive and illuminative, designed to begin dismantling the colonial point of view taught in Canadian educational institutions, and start the long journey toward reconciliation.”

Books/reports

1. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

This document lists the 94 calls to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. All of the reports from the Commission can be found [here](#)

2. A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

From the website: “A Knock on the Door, published in collaboration with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), gathers material from the TRC reports to present the essential history and legacy of residential schools and inform the journey to reconciliation that Canadians are now embarked upon. An afterword introduces the holdings and opportunities of the NCTR, home to the archive of recordings and documents collected by the TRC.”

3. Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

From their website: “The National Inquiry’s Final Report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada’s staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people. The two volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country.

The Final Report is comprised of the truths of more than 2,380 family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers shared over two years of cross-country public

hearings and evidence gathering. It delivers 231 individual Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians.

As documented in the Final Report, testimony from family members and survivors of violence spoke about a surrounding context marked by multigenerational and intergenerational trauma and marginalization in the form of poverty, insecure housing or homelessness and barriers to education, employment, health care and cultural support. Experts and Knowledge Keepers spoke to specific colonial and patriarchal policies that displaced women from their traditional roles in communities and governance and diminished their status in society, leaving them vulnerable to violence.”

4. [21 things you may not know about the Indian Act](#)

From their website: “Based on a viral article, 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act is the essential guide to understanding the legal document and its repercussions on generations of Indigenous Peoples, written by a leading cultural sensitivity trainer...The *Indian Act*, after over 140 years, continues to shape, control, and constrain the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples, and is at the root of many stereotypes that persist. Bob Joseph’s book comes at a key time in the reconciliation process, when awareness from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities is at a crescendo. Joseph explains how Indigenous Peoples can step out from under the Indian Act and return to self-government, self-determination, and self-reliance—and why doing so would result in a better country for every Canadian. He dissects the complex issues around truth and reconciliation, and clearly demonstrates why learning about the Indian Act’s cruel, enduring legacy is essential for the country to move toward true reconciliation.”

5. David A. Robertson’s list of [48 books by Indigenous writers to read to understand residential schools](#)

Videos/websites/tool kits

1. [Beyond 94: Truth and Reconciliation in Canada](#)

From their website: “Winner of the Human Rights Reporting award from the Canadian Association of Journalists / Journalists for Human Rights, cbc.ca/beyond94 is an immersive website on the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission...CBC’s Beyond 94 monitors the progress of that journey. Created by the CBC Indigenous Unit, cbc.ca/beyond94 allows students to track outcomes on the Calls to Action, learn more about the residential school(s) that operated near their communities (explore the interactive map) and discover concrete examples of how Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians can work together. The project is a living resource as new documentaries, residential school survivor stories, ideas and community-based action around reconciliation are added.”

2. Kitchen table dialogue guide

From Reconciliation Canada's website: "Reconciliation is an ongoing journey, one that will take a collective effort to find a new way forward. We invite you to contribute to this important conversation and involve your social and professional circles, be it your family, friends, colleagues, neighbours or classmates. The Community Action Toolkits are intended to provide you with some guidelines and ideas on how to start the reconciliation conversation. Of course, every community and situation is different and we invite you, as the expert in your own community, to use these tools in a way that is appropriate, impactful and safe in your respective environments and situations."

3. National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education Introductory videos

From their website: "NCCIE, in collaboration with the First Nations University Elders' Council (kêhtê-ayak) and Productions Cazabon, is pleased to present these five videos for you to watch first, as an introduction to learning about Indigenous knowledges. Please start with the first one, "The Frame of Mind One Can Bring" and watch all five. Key information is shared in each video, providing you with important insights to be aware of when working with Indigenous knowledges."

Podcasts

1. Warrior Life

From Apple website: "This is an Indigenous podcast about warrior life - a lifestyle that focuses on decolonizing our minds, bodies and spirits while at the same time revitalizing our cultures, traditions, laws and governing practices."

2. Missing & Murdered: Finding Cleo

From website: "A CBC News original podcast hosted by CBC News investigative reporter Connie Walker... This season joins a family as they search for their sister Cleo Nicotine Semaganis. In the early 1970s, Cleo and her five siblings were apprehended by child welfare authorities in Saskatchewan. The children were adopted into white families across North America. All but one of the siblings have reconnected and have been told various mysterious stories about what happened to Cleo, but they can't find her."

3. Missing & Murdered: Who killed Alberta Williams

From website: "A CBC News original podcast hosted by CBC News investigative reporter Connie Walker... Sparked by a chilling tip, season one is an eight-part podcast investigation that unearths new information and potential suspects in the cold case of a young Indigenous woman murdered in British Columbia in 1989."

4. The Henceforward

From their website: “The Henceforward is a podcast that considers relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Black Peoples on Turtle Island. Through this podcast series, we take an open and honest look at how these relationships can go beyond what has been constructed through settler colonialism and antiblackness, we investigate what our mutual obligations and possibilities for contingent collaboration are, and much, much, more. We aim to approach these charged questions with generosity and complexity. We reconsider the past and reimagine the future, in The Henceforward.”

5. The Secret Life of Canada

From their website: “The Secret Life of Canada highlights the people, places and stories that probably didn't make it into your high school textbook. Join hosts Leah and Falen as they explore the unauthorized history of a complicated country.”

Resource lists created by other organizations

Reconciliation Canada

<https://reconciliationcanada.ca/resources/useful-links/>

Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

<https://downiewenjack.ca/recommended-resources/>

<https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/reconciliations/>

CBC podcasts

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/podcasts-cbc-listen-national-indigenous-history-month-1.6076495>

University of Toronto’s Indigenous Book Club & Discover Indigenous Authors

<https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/IndigenousBookClub>

Government of Canada

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1621447127773/1621447157184>

IndigiNews podcast list

<https://indiginews.com/okanagan/top-ten-indigenous-podcasts-to-follow>

21 things you can do to help change the world

This list was created by Bob Joseph and is found on pp 166-167 in *21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act*.

1. Attend or volunteer at a National Indigenous Peoples Day event.
2. Participate in a Walk for Reconciliation or organize one.
3. Attend and support Indigenous community events.
4. Donate books by Indigenous authors to school libraries.
5. Ask your children's teachers if they include curriculum related to residential schools and the *Indian Act*.
6. Read books by Indigenous authors.
7. Read books by Indigenous authors to your children.
8. Donate sports equipment to remote Indigenous communities.
9. Donate time to coach Indigenous sports teams in your community.
10. Ensure you buy authentic Indigenous art.
11. Buy food from an Indigenous food truck; eat in an Indigenous-owned restaurant.
12. Learn the Indigenous names for where you live and work.
13. Support Indigenous language revitalization.
14. Attend an Indigenous film festival.
15. Attend an Indigenous music festival.
16. Attend a pow wow.
17. Support efforts to stop inappropriate usage of Indigenous imagery for mascots.
18. Speak up when you observe cultural appropriation. Ensure you don't promote cultural appropriation when choosing a Halloween costume.
19. Speak up when you hear someone making derogatory remarks about Indigenous Peoples.
20. Write a letter to your MP to support the dismantling of the *Indian Act*.
21. Encourage family and friends to commit to helping you change the world.