



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Commission de
vérité et
réconciliation
du Canada

ATLANTIC NATIONAL EVENT OCTOBER 26 - 29 , 2011 HALIFAX | WORLD TRADE CONVENTION CENTRE PROGRAM



IT'S ABOUT LOVE – A National Journey for Healing, Families and Reconciliation

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS



PHOTO L-R: TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson, Chair, Justice Murray Sinclair and Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild.

Welcome to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Atlantic National Event in Halifax, Nova Scotia from October 26-29, 2011.

TRC National Events provide an important forum for the TRC to hear the experiences of former Residential School students, employees and their families. They also serve to educate and enrich the broader Canadian public about Canada's 130-year history of Residential Schools, and today's legacy both for Aboriginal communities and Canadian society in general.

In preparation of this event, the Commission held public Hearings in six communities throughout New Brunswick, Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

Since the Hearings began in September 2011, Survivors from across the Atlantic provided their statements, publicly and/or privately and more than 500 people attended to 'bear witness'.

The theme for the Atlantic National Event is *It's about Love – A National Journey for Healing, Families and Reconciliation*.

During the Atlantic Hearings, Survivors talked to us about how healing has often been a personal journey of self love, hope, change and transformation.

The National Event in Halifax will offer a unique experience from Canada's Atlantic for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system.

This Event is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about residential schools, to meet Survivors and celebrate Aboriginal culture. The Atlantic National Event is free and open to everyone.

We welcome you to Halifax as we continue on this National Journey for Healing, Families and Reconciliation.

With respect,

Justice Murray Sinclair
Chair

Chief Wilton Littlechild
Commissioner

Marie Wilson
Commissioner



PHOTO: Shubenacadie, early 1930s; Halifax; Congregational Archives of the Sisters of Charity

IT'S ABOUT LOVE

A National Journey for Healing, Families and Reconciliation

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) draws on the seven sacred teachings in the work of truth-gathering, truth-telling, and reconciliation.

Just as the symbolism of the seven sacred teachings is represented in the TRC logo, these themes are also drawn upon for the 7 National Events. The Indian Residential School Survivor Committee identified the theme of “Love” for the Atlantic National Event.

In the seven sacred teachings, “Love” is represented by the Eagle which offers many lessons by the way it lives.

The Eagle has an ability to soar to great heights which has led to the belief that Eagles are closely connected to the Creator.



Eagles have served as a source of inspiration for many Aboriginal People. Some believe to give or receive an eagle feather is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed.

The Eagle is thought to be a symbol of wisdom, healing and creation.

The Eagle teaches us to always act in love. Love for the Creator. Love for the Earth. Love for yourself, your family, and your fellow human beings.

The Eagle typically does not have a strong voice, this can sometimes teach the need to develop an instinct for the proper time to speak, how much to say, and how strongly to voice your thoughts.

The teaching around the Eagle's voice reflects the times when Residential School Survivors and their families were prevented from using their voice, prevented from speaking their languages and prevented from sharing their truths. The TRC Atlantic National Event will provide an opportunity for truths to be shared and witnessed.

Although the TRC Atlantic National Event will create a forum for discussions on love, healing, families and reconciliation, it will also provide an opportunity to share the impact of the absence of love that came from the institution of residential school.

EAGLE PHOTOS: Sean Corrigan

Wednesday, October 26

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
10:00 am - 11:00 am	How to Share Your Truth Information Session	WTCC Room 200C2
11:30 am - 12:15 pm	Lighting of the Sacred Fire	Grand Parade Square
12:15 pm - 12:30 pm	Survivors Procession	Grand Parade Square to WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Welcome to the Territory Lighting of the Kullik	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Light Lunch	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Film Screening	WTCC Room tbc
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Pathways to Reconciliation (Plenary)	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ M
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	How to Share Your Truth Information Session	WTCC Room 200C2
3:15 pm - 5:00 pm	Knowledge Mobilization Circle 1 - Aboriginal Student Advisors Consortium	WTCC Room 302 M
3:15 pm - 5:00 pm	Knowledge Mobilization Circle 2 - Research Ethics	WTCC Room 303 M
3:15 pm - 5:00 pm	Knowledge Mobilization Circle 3 - Indigenous Governance	WTCC Room 200C1 M
3:15 pm - 5:00 pm	Film Screening	WTCC Room 100
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Honouring Ceremony for Nora Bernard	WTCC Room 200D M

M indicates *Mobilizing Pathways to Reconciliation* events
see pages 20 - 23 for more information

i Interpretation services will be available

Daily Programming

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Survivor Registration	WTCC, Registration Desk Level 100, Foyer
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Private Statement Gathering	Delta Barrington 2nd Floor



PHOTO: TRC Survivor Committee member, Lottie May Johnson accepting the Ashes from the Sacred Fire in Inuvik, NWT.

Thursday, October 27

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Sunrise Ceremonies	Grand Parade Square
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Commissioners Welcome	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Honourary Witness Ceremony	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Commissioners Sharing Panel	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Education Day	WTCC Room 100 Halifax Metro Centre
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Circle of Reconciliation	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Commissioners Sharing Panel	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Sharing Circles with Survivor Committee	WTCC Room 200C
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Feast for Survivors	Halifax Metro Centre
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Call to Gather Expressions of Reconciliation	Halifax Metro Centre
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Talent Show	Halifax Metro Centre

ⓘ Interpretation services will be available

Daily Programming

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Private Statement Gathering Registration is located onsite	Delta Barrington 2nd floor
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Learning Place	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Churches Listening Area	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Displays and Vendors	WTCC Room 100
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Film Screenings	WTCC Room 100



PHOTO: Shubenacadie, Halifax; Congregational Archives of the Sisters of Charity

Friday, October 28

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Sunrise Ceremonies	Grand Parade Square
9:00 am - noon	Commissioners Sharing Panel	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
9:00 am - noon	Sharing Circles with Survivor Committee	WTCC Room 200C
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Knowledge Mobilization Circle 4 - Indigenous Language	WTCC Room 301 ⓘ
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Knowledge Mobilization Circle 5 - Knowledge and Rights	WTCC Room 302 ⓘ
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Commissioners Sharing Panel	WTCC Room 200D ⓘ
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Sharing Circles with Survivor Committee	WTCC Room 200C
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Knowledge Mobilization Circle 6 - Health and Wellness	WTCC Room 301 ⓘ
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Knowledge Mobilization Circle 7 - Justice and Law	WTCC Room 302 ⓘ
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Feast for Survivors	Halifax Metro Centre
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Call to Gather / Expressions of Reconciliation	Halifax Metro Centre
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Special Concert Performance	Halifax Metro Centre

ⓘ Mobilizing Pathways to Reconciliation events
see pages 20 - 23 for more information

ⓘ Interpretation services will be available

Daily Programming

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Private Statement Gathering	Delta Barrington 2nd floor
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Learning Place	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Churches Listening Area	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Displays and Vendors	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Film Screenings	WTCC Room 100



PHOTO: Orphan boys sawing wood at St. Anthony/ Fred Coleman Sears [1930], International Grenfell Association photograph collection

Saturday, October 29

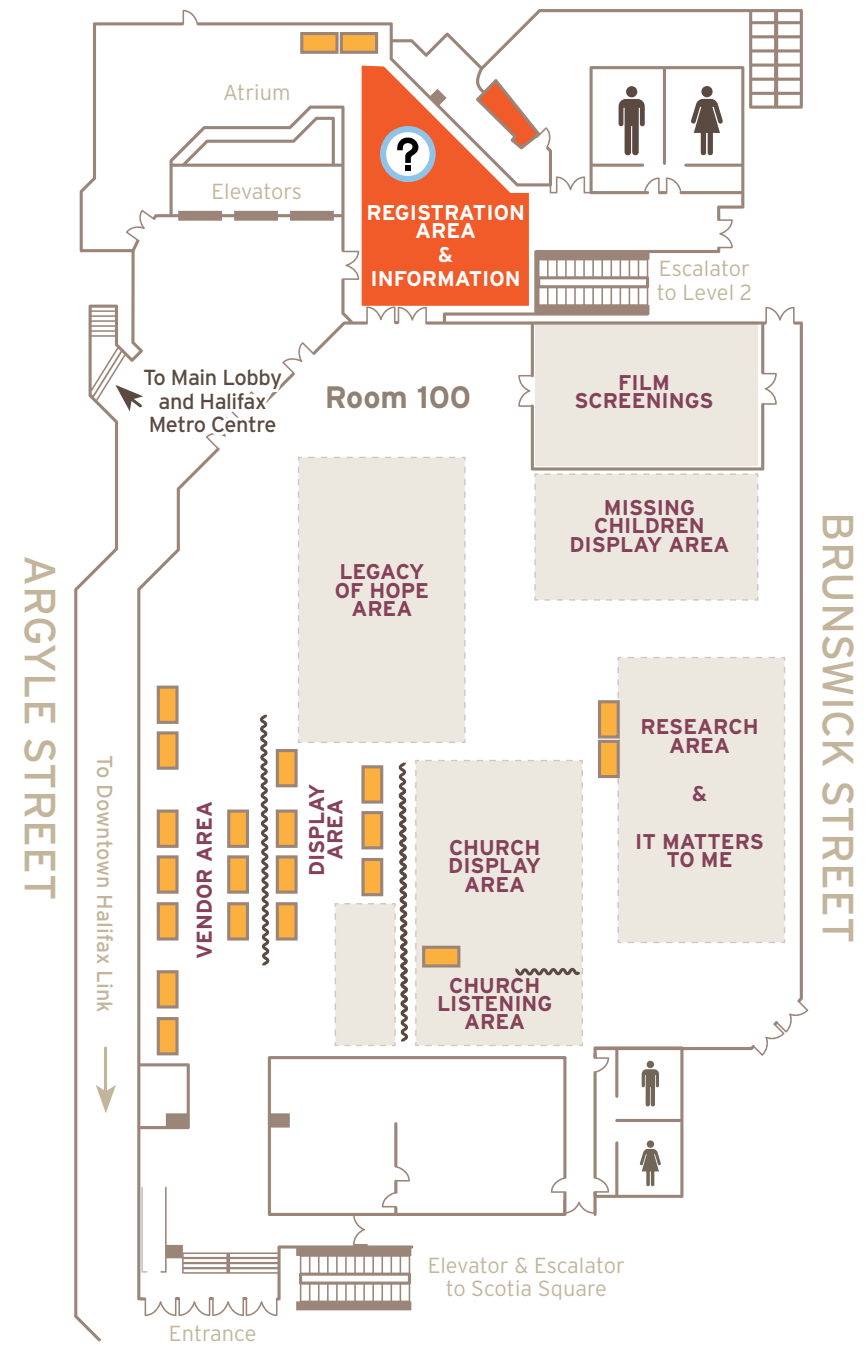
TIME	EVENT	VENUE
7:30 am-8:30 am	Sunrise Ceremonies	Grand Parade Square
9:00 am-10:00 am	Expressions of Reconciliation	WTCC Room 200D i
9:30 am-noon	Commissioners Sharing Panel	WTCC Room 200D i
9:30 am-noon	Sharing Circles with Survivor Committee	WTCC Room 200C
1:30 pm-3:00 pm	Dialogue on Resilience	WTCC Room 200D i
4:00 pm-5:00 pm	Call to Gather	Halifax Metro Centre
5:00 pm-6:00 pm	Closing Remarks	Halifax Metro Centre
6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Community Feast with Survivor Birthday Celebration	Halifax Metro Centre

Daily Programming

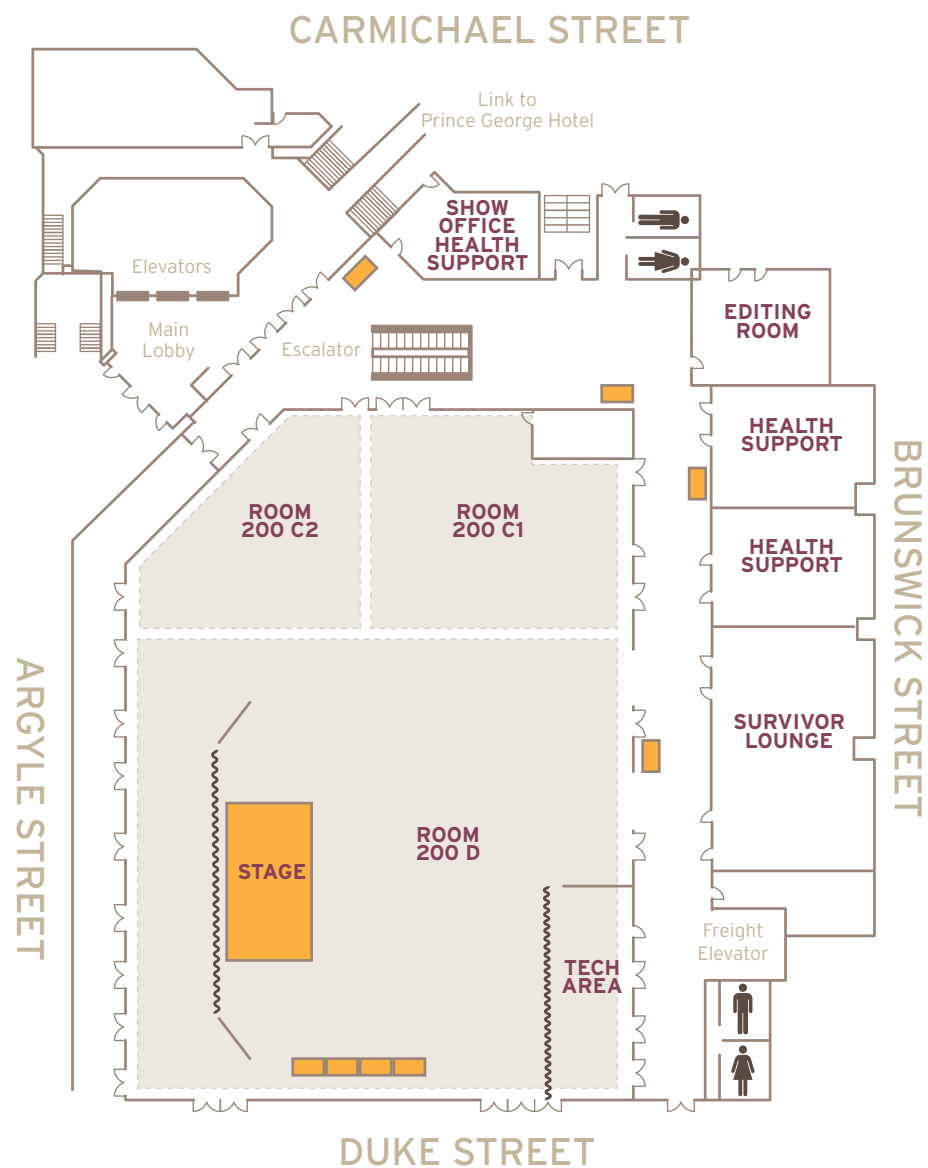
TIME	EVENT	VENUE
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Private Statement Gathering	Delta Barrington 2nd Floor
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Learning Place	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Churches Listening Area	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Displays and Vendors	WTCC Room 100
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Film Screenings	WTCC Room 100

i Interpretation services will be available

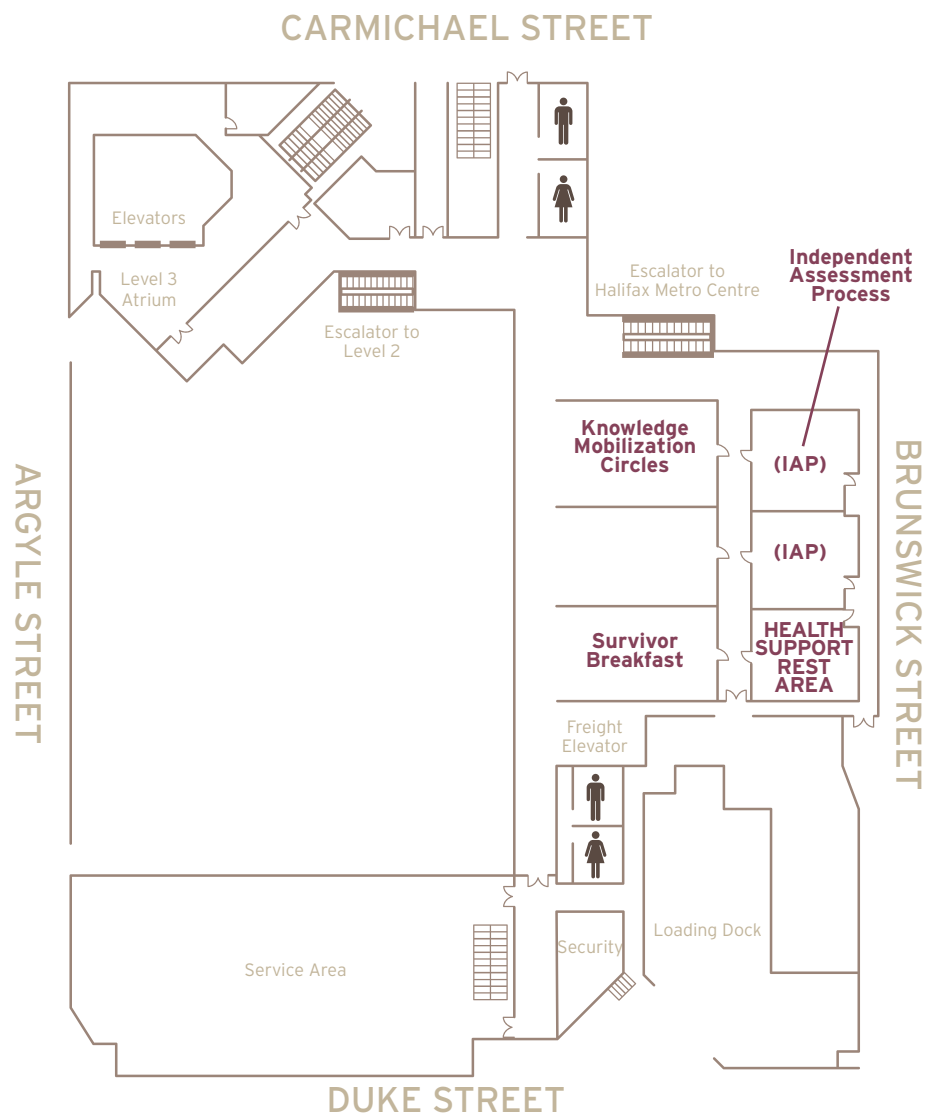
LEARNING CENTRE WTCC Level 1 - Room 100 & 101



WTCC Level 2



WTCC Level 3



SHARE YOUR TRUTH

The TRC Atlantic National Event offers many ways for you to share your truth with the Commission.

COMMISSIONERS SHARING PANEL Similar to the Atlantic Hearings, these Panels allow Survivors to share their truth with the Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

- * Registration is located onsite
- * Members of the public and the media may 'bear witness'.
- * Language interpretation services are available.

DATE: October 27, 28, 29 **LOCATION:** WTCC Room 200D
BEGINS: See Program at a Glance

SHARING CIRCLES WITH SURVIVOR COMMITTEE

Facilitated by members of the TRC Indian Residential School Survivors Committee (IRSSC), these Circles provide opportunity for Survivors to share their truth in a public setting.

- * Registration is located onsite
- * Members of the public and the media may come and 'bear witness'.

DATE: October 27, 28, 29 **LOCATION:** WTCC Room 200C
BEGINS: See Program at a Glance

PRIVATE STATEMENT GATHERING Those wishing to share their experiences with the TRC in a private and confidential setting can do so. This area has individual rooms where you will have the option of providing a video recorded or audio recorded statement. Health supports will be available.

*Registration is located at the Delta Barrington and WTCC level 100.

DATE: October 26, 27, 28, 29 **LOCATION:** Delta Barrington 2nd floor
HOURS: See Program at a Glance

TRC HONOURARY WITNESS CEREMONY The TRC will welcome key individuals who will serve as Honourary Witnesses. For more information see page 34.

DATE: October 27 **LOCATION:** WTCC Room 200D
BEGINS: 10:00 am

CIRCLE OF RECONCILIATION Survivors and Representatives of the Settlement Agreement will come together to discuss the importance of Reconciliation. Each speaker has been asked to answer the questions: What does Reconciliation mean to you? How will this be addressed by the organization, government or entity that you represent?

DATE: October 27 **LOCATION:** WTCC Room 200D
BEGINS: 1:30 pm

DIALOGUE ON RESILIENCE This Dialogue provides an opportunity to celebrate the resilience of Survivors and to give hope and inspiration to those in attendance. Join the Commissioners as they learn about the successes and challenges of these courageous individuals.

DATE: October 29 **LOCATION:** WTCC Room 200D
BEGINS: 1:30 pm

HOW TO SHARE YOUR TRUTH INFORMATION SESSIONS

Your statement is very important and can help Canadians understand the legacy of Residential Schools. Those that lived, attended and worked at the schools will finally be given a voice through the statement gathering process.

This workshop will provide information on how you can share your experience. Discussed will be the options of Private Statement Gathering, the Commissioner's Sharing Panels, and Sharing Circles with the Survivors Committee. Health Supports will also be discussed.

DATE: October 26 **LOCATION:** WTCC Room 200C2
BEGINS: 10:00 am & 3:15 pm

BENTWOOD BOX



Carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston, the TRC Bentwood Box is a lasting tribute to all Indian Residential School survivors.

Steamed and bent from a single piece of red cedar, the carved panels represent the unique cultures of former First Nations, Inuit and Métis students. The artist pays respect to his own grandmother by depicting her residential schools experiences at Kuper Island in the carvings.



The TRC Bentwood Box reflects the strength and resilience of residential school survivors and their descendants, and honours those survivors who are no longer living.

The Box will travel with the TRC to all of its seven national events throughout Canada.

As the Box travels with the Commission to different provinces and territories, offerings will be made to it to commemorate personal journeys toward healing and reconciliation.

At the end of the TRC's mandate, it will be housed in the National Research Centre.

Throughout the Atlantic National Event, the Bentwood Box will be in room WTCC Room 200 D for the Commissioners Sharing Panels, Honourary Witness Ceremony, Circle of Reconciliation and Dialogue on Resilience.

MOBILIZING PATHWAYS TO RECONCILIATION

A Gathering Celebrating Indigenous Knowledge

Within the Atlantic National Event, Dalhousie University and St. Francis Xavier University are organizing *A Gathering Celebrating Indigenous Knowledge*.

This is an opportunity for the public, Indigenous communities and university communities to consider questions of reconciliation and work collaboratively to design meaningful pathways to reconciliation.

The goal of the gathering is to put action items to work with the full realization that reconciliation is a living process that does not end with the closure of the TRC.

Through the *Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization Circles*, the *Plenary Mobilization Pathways to Reconciliation in Education*, the *Honouring Ceremony for Nora Bernard* and the *Memorial for Lost Survivors*, organizers hope to create and support sustainable strategies to overcome obstacles to reconciliation for survivors, their families and communities.

Action items resulting from this Gathering will be presented at the Call to Gather on Friday, October 28, 2011.



NOTE: This icon identifies *Mobilizing Pathways to Reconciliation* events in the schedule at a Glance.

PLENARY MOBILIZATION PATHWAYS TO RECONCILIATION IN EDUCATION Each Keynote Speaker has been asked to share their experiences and visions for mobilizing truth and reconciliation through education, governance and the assertion of Indigenous rights.

DATE: **October 26**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 200D

BEGINS: **1:30 pm**

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION CIRCLE 1

ABORIGINAL STUDENT ADVISORS CONSORTIUM This circle is an opportunity to consider the role of education in reconciliation and to form a network of Atlantic Region Aboriginal Student Advisors. Specific attention will be paid to building actions plans to implement the services and programs for Indigenous students to achieve their academic aspirations.

DATE: **October 26**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 302

BEGINS: **3:15 pm**

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION CIRCLE 2

RESEARCH ETHICS This circle will be an open discussion on ethical research relationships and their significance for reconciliation.

DATE: **October 26**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 303

BEGINS: **3:15 pm**

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION CIRCLE 3

INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE This circle will explore the pathways to reconciliation between state and Indigenous governments by examining past practices and structures of Indigenous governance in the Atlantic region and comparing where we currently are with where the research shows where we need to be. The discussion will explore options in Indigenous governance and consider some of the challenges that remain in creating new ideologies towards social justice and Indigenous self-determination.

DATE: **October 26**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 200C1

BEGINS: **3:15 pm**

MOBILIZING PATHWAYS TO RECONCILIATION

HONOURING CEREMONY FOR NORA BERNARD

Nora Bernard was a Mi'kmaq activist and Survivor from the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School who sought compensation for survivors of the Canadian residential school system. She played a key role in what became the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history, representing an estimated 79,000 survivors.

Representatives from the Atlantic Policy congress, Outreach Residential School Atlantic Committee (ORSAC), the Mi'kmaq community and Ms. Bernard's family will honour Nora for her contributions.

The TRC will remember those Survivors that are no longer with us, as well as the children who attended Residential School, but never returned home.

DATE: **October 26**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 200D

BEGINS: **7:00 pm**

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION CIRCLE 4

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE Language is the foundation of culture. Residential schools contributed to the demise of Indigenous languages. This circle discusses the plans for implementing reconciliation strategies necessary for rebuilding family and community capacity for Indigenous language retention through immersion programs and other language empowerment strategies.

DATE: **October 28**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 301

BEGINS: **11:30 am**

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION CIRCLE 5

KNOWLEDGE AND RIGHTS This circle invites participants to consider the importance and value of Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous rights by exploring pathways to empowerment through Indigenous resource management and environmental rights. Collectively the participants are invited to make an action plan for reconciliation.

DATE: **October 28**

BEGINS: **11:30 am**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 302

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION CIRCLE 6

HEALTH AND WELLNESS In this circle, members of the university and community-based research community will come together to share their knowledge about:

- The state of the knowledge base concerning Aboriginal health and wellness, including the identification of important gaps.
- The promise of Indigenous knowledge in contributing to community health and well-being.
- What is required to achieve reconciliation, including the formulation of recommendations for action.

DATE: **October 28**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 301

BEGINS: **2:30 pm**

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION CIRCLE 7

JUSTICE AND LAW Indigenous law ways are embedded in culture, language and family. This circle explores the necessity and practice of mobilizing customary laws to address intergenerational traumas and their consequences. We will discuss how Mi'kmaq communities want to address the problems of family violence and create an action plan.

DATE: **October 28**

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 302

BEGINS: **2:30 pm**

PRESENTATION OF FINAL REPORT FROM THE GATHERING TO CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE: MOBILIZING PATHWAYS TO RECONCILIATION

DATE: **October 28**

LOCATION: **Halifax Metro Centre**

BEGINS: **6:30 pm** during the
Call to Gather

DAILY PROGRAMMING

LEARNING PLACE Through posters, photographs and videos, you can explore the history of residential schools in Canada, with a particular focus on the experience in the Atlantic. The TRC Research team, Archivists from the Anglican and Catholic churches, and Library and Archives Canada will be onsite to share information and collections. The Learning Place is located at WTCC Room 100 and is open October 27, 28, 29 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Programming includes:

CHURCHES LISTENING AREA Survivors have an opportunity to share their experience with a representative of the Churches and receive a personal apology. This one-on-one session can play an important role in Reconciliation.

100 YEARS OF LEGACY DISPLAY Developed by the Legacy of Hope Foundation these educational products are intended to raise awareness about the history and legacy of residential schools. This display is intended to sensitize and educate young Canadians including Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal and new Canadians, challenge stereotypes and contribute to shifting opinions that foster inquiry, dialogue, and action.

THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT The TRC is undertaking a special research project into the story of the Missing Children. If you have information you would like to share about a death or disappearance at a residential school, please visit the Missing Children display area.

All Learning Place Activities, Displays, Vendors and Film Screenings

DATE: **October 27, 28, 29**

LOCATION: **WTCC Room 100**

HOURS: **9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

DISPLAYS AND VENDORS This is a place for sharing information and resources, as well as an area for individuals from across Canada to showcase and their arts and crafts.

DISPLAYS INCLUDE

- Canadian Human Rights Commission
- Returning to Spirit
- KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- Library and Archives of Canada
- Government of Canada
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Native Counseling Services of Alberta/National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week
- Independent Assessment Process (IAP)

VENDORS INCLUDE

- Little Moccasin
- Alpaca Natural Fiber
- Little Arrow's Porcupine Quill Jewelry
- Silversmith Craft
- Kanatan Aski
- Bearman Jewelry and Crafts
- Sean Corrigan Photography
- Cree Spirit Crafts
- Mimikey Clothing & Accessories

FILM SCREENINGS

A Selection of relevant films will be shown including:

- *A Windigo Tale*
by Armand Garnet Ruffo
- *My Own Private Lower Post*
by Duane Gastant' Aucoin
- *Remembering Inninimowin*
by VisJuelles Productions
- *The Experimental Eskimos*
by White Pine Pictures

Evening Programming

FEASTS FOR SURVIVORS Communities and sponsors have come together to provide complementary suppers to Survivors.

DATES: October 27, 28

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

BEGINS: See Program at a Glance

CALL TO GATHER Hosted by an MC, a summary of the day's activities will be provided, which includes the sharing of experiences by the Honourary Witnesses for that day. National Event announcements will be made. This is also the venue for the Expressions of Reconciliation.

DATES: October 27, 28, 29

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

BEGINS: See Program at a Glance

EXPRESSIONS OF RECONCILIATION Individual organizations and representatives of the parties to the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement will make statements, presentations, or apologies directly to Survivors.

DATES: October 27, 28, 29

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Center

BEGINS: See Program at a Glance

WTCC room 200D (October 29th only)

TALENT SHOW Calling all performers, share your gifts! Bring your drum, song and your voice to the stage for an evening of laughter, sharing and inspiration. Registration takes place at the Registration Desk (WTCC Level 1, Foyer).

DATES: October 27

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

BEGINS: 8:00 pm

SPECIAL CONCERT PERFORMANCE Join us for a presentation that pays tribute to Atlantic cultures and traditions. Performances include Pow wow drummers, Throat-singers, comedians and contemporary artists.

DATES: October 28

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

BEGINS: 8:00 pm

CLOSING REMARKS Join the TRC Commissioners, Honourary Witnesses and representatives from the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee for reflections on the Atlantic National Event, and the transferring of the sacred ashes.

DATES: October 29

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

BEGINS: 5:00 pm

COMMUNITY FEAST

DATES: October 29

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

BEGINS: 6:00 pm

SURVIVOR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION This celebration will acknowledge all of the survivors who were never able to celebrate their birthdays while attending residential school. The TRC and special guests would like to wish you all a Happy Birthday.

DATES: October 29

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

BEGINS: 7:00 pm



PHOTO: The rooms Provincial Archives Wilfred T. Grenfell School, St. Anthony. Fred Coleman Sears, International Grenfell Association photograph collection

EDUCATION DAY

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 2011

Treaty Day, (October 1st) marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia as proclaimed in 1993 by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. Its purpose is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia.

In recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month, the TRC is proud to welcome students from the Halifax Regional School Board for Education Day. Hundreds of high school students will participate in educational activities about Residential Schools at the Learning Place and Halifax Metro Centre.

LOCATION: **WTCC** Room 100 and **Halifax Metro Centre**

HOURS: **10:00 am - 2:00 pm**



PHOTO: Pottery class, Shubenacadie, Halifax; Congregational Archives of the Sisters of Charity

TRC Indian Residential School Survivor Committee (IRSSC)

This ten-member committee serves as an advisory body to the TRC.



BACK ROW L-R: John Banksland, John Morrisseau, Eugene Arcand, Madeleine Basile, Lottie May Johnson, Rebekah Uqi Williams FRONT ROW L-R: TRC Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild, Doris Young, Barney Williams Jr., Gordon Williams, Terri Brown



The shape of the TRC logo - a circle - reflects the Circle of Life. In the Circle, we join together to share truth.

The flames sustain life in the Circle and provide safety and sustenance. Most importantly, the flames shed light on what needs to be shared in the Circle - the experiences of those affected by Indian Residential Schools.

The seven flames that make up the circle represent the seven sacred teachings: love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission draws on each of those teachings in the work of truth-gathering, truth-telling, and reconciliation.

HEALTH SUPPORT ON SITE Health Canada Health Support Workers are available on site and are wearing beige and black vests. They are here to provide immediate support. Support is provided through individual or family counselling, cultural supports such as Elders or Aboriginal health support workers who will listen and provide information.

CULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICE AREA This is a designated area where event participants can access Cultural Support Providers (CSP) who are Elders and/or Traditional Healers. You can sit with the CSP and have tea or access private one-on-one sessions.

*Interpreters will be available on request

HOURS: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

LOCATION: WTCC Show Office level 2

SURVIVOR LOUNGE This is a space where survivors are welcome to rest and relax. It is open all day.

LOCATION: WTCC Room 205

HOURS: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

To get more information about available health supports call toll free:

Health Canada Atlantic Region 1-866-414-8111
(Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador)

The 24-HOUR NATIONAL CRISIS LINE is also available to provide immediate emotional assistance:

1-866-925-4419

FIRST AID AND PARAMEDICS

HOURS:

LOCATION: WTCC Room 308

October 26 from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

October 27, 28 from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

October 29 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

October 27, 28 from 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm

LOCATION: Halifax Metro Centre

October 29 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

INFORMATION BOOTH TRC Staff and Volunteers will be on site to assist you with any questions you may have. Also located here is the Lost and Found.

HOURS: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

LOCATION: WTCC Level One, Foyer
(next to Registration Desk)

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (IAP)

SUPPORT SERVICES The IAP application deadline is September 19, 2012. A functional client service centre will be staffed to answer questions you may have on the status of your IAP claim.

LOCATION: WTCC Rooms 304 & 305

HOURS: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



INTERPRETATION SERVICES

All activities that take place in WTCC Room 200D on October 27, 28, 29 will offer interpretation services in the following languages:

Mi'kmaq
French

Inuktitut
English

Innu

SACRED FIRE



PHOTO: Sacred Fire at the TRC Northern National Event in June 2011 with Canadian Rangers standing guard in background.

The Sacred Fire is an important part of TRC National Events. The Lighting of the Sacred Fire in June 2010 at the first National Event in Winnipeg was an emotional beginning to a landmark event and served as a symbol of strength and warmth for all who participated.

At the conclusion of the National Event in Winnipeg, John Banksland and Terry Brown, members of the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee (IRSSC) accepted the responsibility of transferring the ashes to the Sacred Fire at the Northern National Event in Inuvik in June 2011.

Once again, the Sacred Fire was lit and without ever being asked or prompted, people

tended to this fire throughout the entire event. This fire stayed lit because of the dedication and belief of the people there to be a witness to simple truths; that we will carry on. The Sacred Fire at the Northern Event became a fire of resilience.

On July 1, 2011, Survivor Committee member Lottie May Johnson came forward to receive the responsibility of taking the ashes to the Sacred Fire that is being lit in Halifax on Wednesday October 26, 2011 for the Atlantic National Event.

The Lighting of the Sacred Fire happens before we begin each Event to ensure that it is the spirits and the teachings that guide us and protect us while the Commission does its work. The transferring of the ashes has become a symbol of national unity as it becomes lit from coast to coast.

The Firekeeper for the Atlantic National Event is Earl Sack from Indian Brook First Nation, Shubenacadie.

PLEASE HELP US RESPECT THE PROTOCOLS OF THE SACRED FIRE

- The Firekeeper has been entrusted with tending to this flame and deserves the utmost respect.
- Traditionally, it is the responsibility of the men to ensure the fire burns all day and all night.
- Traditionally, it is the responsibility of the women to bring food and water to the men tending the fire.
- A sacred fire is separate from a cooking or camp fire; please do not throw garbage or cigarette butts into the sacred fire.
- Please refrain from using drugs or alcohol near the Sacred Fire and for the duration of the TRC Atlantic National Event.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN OFFERING TO THE SACRED FIRE

- If you wish to share a prayer or offering, please ask the Firekeeper about the protocols.
- Offerings to the Sacred Fire can include herbs, medicines such as tobacco, sweet grass, cedar or sage, bundles or food.
- During the Event, Health Support Workers will be collecting tissues of tears for an offering to the Sacred Fire. Those who may wish to offer their own 'tissues of tears' to the Sacred Fire for healing are welcome to do so.

During the Hearings in New Brunswick, PEI and Nova Scotia, Sacred Fires were also lit. During these Hearings, two Ash baskets collected 'tissues of tears'. At the end of each Hearing a ceremony was conducted to add the 'tissues of tears' that were collected throughout the day to the Fire. The ashes were then gathered and offered to the next Fire that was lit. The ashes from these Fires will be added to the Sacred Fire in Halifax.

*The Ash Baskets that collected the 'tissues of tears' were gifted to the Commissioners at a Survivors Gathering in Oromocto, NB in 2009.



Honourary Witnesses

Join us on October 27th as the TRC continues the tradition of witnessing by inducting new Honourary Witnesses.

Honourary Witnesses are called upon to be the keepers of history when an event of historic significance occurs.

Bearing witness to the thought provoking stories of residential school survivors helps to validate the survivor experience.

Honourary Witnesses are then asked to store and care for the history they have witnessed and most importantly, to share it with their own community when they return home.

"I call on Canadians – elders and youth, Aboriginal or not – to commit to reconciliation and breaking down the wall of indifference. This is not just a dream. It is a collective responsibility."

Michaëlle Jean, Former Governor General of Canada, is the TRC's first Honourary Witness.

Truth and Reconciliation. It Matters to Me.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to all Survivors who traveled from near and far to share their truth and to everyone who has come to witness this important occasion.

On behalf of the Survivors and the TRC, we would like to thank those who helped bring more Survivors to Halifax by providing travel, accommodations, meals and services to support the Atlantic National Event.

OUR THANKS TO:

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada
Health Canada
National Defence

PROVINCES

Government of Nova Scotia
Government of New Brunswick
Government of Newfoundland
and Labrador
Government of Prince Edward Island

HOST CITY



ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS

Assembly of First Nations
Atlantic Policy Congress
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies
Nunatsiavut Government

EDUCATION

Halifax Regional School Board
Dalhousie University
St. Francis Xavier University

CHURCHES

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Catholic Church in Canada
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The United Church of Canada
Oblates of Mary Immaculate Canada
Presbytery of Pictou
Sisters of Charity

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We would also like to express our appreciation to the volunteers that contributed to the success of the Atlantic National Event.

For a complete listing of those that contributed to the success of the Atlantic National Event, visit the trc.ca