



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

How to Make Ribbons of Reconciliation

Truth and Reconciliation. It Matters to Me.



Fred Cattroll

trc.ca

How to Create Ribbons of Reconciliation

First Nation, Inuit, Métis and non-Aboriginal peoples are invited to create their own, custom-made ribbons to exchange between communities to symbolize their dreams, their plans, their commitment to reconcile with each other.

Not another lapel ribbon campaign . . .

The idea of exchanging handmade ribbons is central to the idea of Ribbons of Reconciliation. Since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada began its work, Canadians have been asking, *What Can We Do to Reconcile?*

Use Imagination and Creativity To Make Unique Ribbons that Tell Your Story

Communities are invited to greet each other with an exchange of symbolic gifts of profound significance: handcrafted ribbons that tell the story of how First Nation, Inuit, Métis and non-Aboriginal peoples are reaching out to each other to commit themselves to the journey of healing and reconciliation. The very act of presenting ribbons to others is a step on the journey of reconciliation.

Ribbons may be exchanged in special ceremonies, at community events such as feasts, barbecues, picnics, sporting activities, and dances, or over refreshments and conversation in homes, community halls, places of worship, around a fire, and on the land.

Ribbons Can Take Any Shape or Form

Ribbons of Reconciliation are meant to symbolize the bonds of healthy communities, ties of friendship between neighbours, bonds between peoples who care for and love each other.

Ribbons of Reconciliation can take many forms and be made of many different kinds of materials: cloth, metals, seashells, rocks, plastics, canvas, wool, glass, or any combination thereof.



L-R: Father Guy Lavallee (Métis) of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate speaks with participant at the TRC Winnipeg National Event in June 2010.

Fred Cattroll



L-R: TRC Survivor Committee member Lottie May Johnson and Anglican Bishop Sue Moxley at the TRC Atlantic National Event in October 2011.

Crown copyright Province of Nova Scotia 2011

Ribbons of Reconciliation may be braided, stitched or sewn by hand or machine, knitted, welded, glued or otherwise fastened together.

Ribbons of Reconciliation may be short or long: sashes, belts, shawls, banners, chains, scarves, ties, and flags; in other words Ribbons of Reconciliation may be of any dimensions.

Messages may be embedded symbolically in the artwork of the ribbons, or written or depicted with embroidery, paint, calligraphy, photographs, even electronic recordings.

We hope ribbons will be created that are expressive of those who make them.

We anticipate First Nation, Inuit, Métis and non-Aboriginal peoples will inspire us and inspire others with their inventiveness, their playfulness and their ingenuity in creating Ribbons of Reconciliation that express the kind of Canada we all want to build.

Download TRC Ribbon Patterns

To Make Cut-Outs with Your Choice of Colourful Paper

In some cases it will be more practical for individuals and groups to make Ribbons of Reconciliation from an easy-to-use template. For example, teachers may want to provide children with ribbons made of colourful cardboard, that they can embellish with their drawings . . . or decorate with stickers, sparkles, pictures, feathers, beads, etcetera . . . and/or write messages on with crayons, markers and paints.

The TRC has prepared a template for this purpose. It may be downloaded from our website at:

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/reconciliation/index.php?p=312>

For more information about the TRC's invitation to tell others why *It Matters to Me* and create Ribbons of Reconciliation, contact Lori Ransom, Senior Advisor, TRC at lori.ransom@trc.ca or visit www.trc.ca



Participants at the Welcome to Inuvik for the TRC Northern National Event in June 2011.

Colleen Patterson



Young girl at the Closing Ceremonies of the TRC Northern National Event in June 2011.

Mandy Wesley

Ribbons of Reconciliation

Express Why Truth and Reconciliation Matters
Unite Individuals and Communities in Support of
Healing and Reconciliation in Canada

It matters to me because every survivor is a child with a story.

It matters to me because my Mother mattered!

It matters to me because I want to be proud of my country. I am not proud of this.

It matters to me because we are all on a healing journey.

It matters to me because...

trc.ca