



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Ribbons of Reconciliation

Truth and Reconciliation. It Matters to Me.



Fred Cattroll

trc.ca

Express Why Truth and Reconciliation Matters

Unite Individuals and Communities in Support of Healing and Reconciliation in Canada

You Are Invited

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) invites you as an individual, or your family, community, organization, church, government, or group of friends to tell others why the work of truth sharing, healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians matters.

The TRC has a responsibility to inform all Canadians about what happened in residential schools. The Commission is documenting the truth of survivors, families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience. This includes First Nations, Inuit and Métis former residential school students, their families, communities, churches, former school employees, government and other Canadians.

The TRC is working to inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships that are based on mutual understanding and respect. All Canadians are invited to help the TRC explain why this is so important, why it matters to everyone.

It Matters to Me

Canadians have begun to tell other Canadians why the work of truth and reconciliation matters to them. Individuals who attended the TRC's Northern National Event in Inuvik, NWT (June 28-July 1, 2011) and the Atlantic National Event in Halifax, NS (October 26-29, 2011) expressed why it matters to them on ribbons that were displayed at these events:

It Matters to Me . . . Because I want healing for my family and a healthier community

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 all need healing

It Matters to Me . . . Because we can all make it better for all children

Common themes are *It Matters to Me . . . Because It Matters to You*, my family member, my friend, my neighbour, my fellow citizen; and it matters because we need to remember: the specific individuals who experienced residential schools, and their collective experience, so we all can learn from what happened.



L-R: TRC Commissioners Marie Wilson, Chief Wilton Little Child and Justice Murray Sinclair (TRC Chair).

Speaking about why healing and reconciliation matters is essential. It is important that this happen in one-on-one and in small group conversations. The TRC is also inviting individuals who regularly speak to large audiences, including through the media and through social networking, to help us further a nationwide conversation about why healing and reconciliation matters.

Ribbons of Reconciliation

Individuals and groups can demonstrate how healing and reconciliation matters by creating Ribbons of Reconciliation and sharing them with their neighbours, for example between First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and communities and non-Indigenous individuals and communities.

Ribbons of Reconciliation symbolize the desire for respectful relations between communities.

Ribbons of Reconciliation can take any form that is meaningful to or expressive of the people creating them, their culture, their history, their vision, and their imagination. They may take any shape, size or form and be made of any kinds of materials. The Ribbons may include a written message or use images, perhaps even sounds, to express hope for the future. For ideas and examples of ribbons of reconciliation see the document, *How to Create Ribbons of Reconciliation* (available at www.trc.ca/websites/reconciliation/index.php?p=312).

Reconciliation Happens in Communities

The TRC has a 5-year mandate to educate Canadians about the history and legacy of residential schools and to foster reconciliation. The long term work of reconciliation is everyone's responsibility. Reconciliation will happen between people who build their communities together.

By sharing Ribbons of Reconciliation, individuals, groups and communities may express their commitment to each other's future and to their future together. A church may wish to present a ribbon to a Friendship Centre in its community. A First Nation may choose to present a ribbon to a neighbouring municipality.



Anglican Bishop Lydia Mamakwa (Oji-Cree) speaks at the TRC Northern National Event in June 2011.

Michael Swan



Church leaders Stephen Kendall (Presbyterian), Jamie Scott (United), Terry Finlay (Anglican), and Murray Chatlain (Roman Catholic) at the TRC Northern National Event in June 2012.

Colleen Patterson

Children in schools on and off reserve may want to exchange ribbons. Métis associations may wish to exchange ribbons with non-Indigenous community service groups. Northern businesses may plan to share ribbons with Inuit organizations. Ribbons create bonds and express a desire for unity between any people.

Share the Story of Reconciliation with the TRC

1. Tell Us How Ribbons of Reconciliation are Creating Bonds in Communities

We hope that many ribbons will remain in communities to tell the story of how people known to each other locally are committed to healing and reconciliation. The TRC would like to hear about how ribbons are being used to foster relationships within and between communities.

Send us your stories and pictures. Tell us how reconciliation takes place. We'd like to tell others how your community did it successfully.

Stories and photos of ribbon exchanges and reconciliation may be sent to the TRC at: info@trc.ca or mailed to the TRC at 1500-380 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3.

A selection will be posted on our web site, with permission from the authors.

2. Take Examples of Ribbons of Reconciliation to TRC Events

We invite those individuals and communities sending representatives to TRC events to bring along some of the ribbons they have created.

The Saskatchewan National Event is next. It will take place from June 21-24, 2012 in Saskatoon. There also will be a significant regional event in Victoria from April 13-14, 2012.

Bring a Ribbon of Reconciliation on behalf of yourself, your community, your neighbours to these and other national events. Or give a Ribbon of Reconciliation to a neighbour, perhaps a residential school survivor, an Elder, a community leader, to take to the event.

The TRC will collect and display the ribbons in Saskatoon and at future events.

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