QUEBEC
NATIONAL EVENT
APRIL 24-27, 2013
MONTREAL | FAIRMONT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOTEL

IT’S ABOUT HUMILITY – A National Journey for Healing and Reconciliation

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The Gazette
montrealgazette.com
Welcome to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Quebec National Event in Montreal from April 24 to 27, 2013. We acknowledge the Mohawk Nation, on whose traditional territory this historic gathering is taking place.

We also express our thanks to The Gazette for making this special insert possible, and for informing its online readers about the Quebec National Event. TRC events provide an important forum for those affected by the legacy of the Indian Residential School system to share their experiences with the Commission. They also serve to educate the Canadian public about Canada’s 150-year history of residential schools, and the legacy of the schools for both Aboriginal communities and Canadian society as a whole.

In preparation of this event, the Commission has held public hearings in six communities throughout Quebec: two conducted in northern Quebec in March 2011 by the TRC’s Inuit Sub-Commission, and four others that began in January 2013. Survivors from these and adjacent communities shared their experiences with the Commission in public and private sessions. Most of these hearings were webcast on www.trc.ca, with large numbers of people tuning in from all over the world. Survivors and their family members shared many personal and emotional stories, as well as hope for change and reconciliation.

In this same spirit of openness, the TRC Quebec National Event in Montreal will offer a unique experience for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to hear first-hand the experiences of those who attended the schools and to bear witness to the legacy of the residential school system. The Quebec National Event is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about residential schools and their legacy, and to celebrate Aboriginal culture.

It is free and open to everyone.

We welcome you to Montreal as we continue on this national journey for truth, healing and reconciliation.

Respectfully,

Justice Murray Sinclair
CHAIR

Chief Wilton Littlechild
COMMISSIONER

Marie Wilson
COMMISSIONER
My grandmother told me the saddest day in her life was the day she went outside and there was no longer the sound of children playing in our community. There was silence because all of the children had been taken away to residential school.

- Barney Williams, Member of the TRC Indian Residential School Survivor Committee

Imagine living in a community without children

For more than 150 years, thousands of Aboriginal children in Canada were sent to government-funded, church-run residential schools. Children were taken from families, communities, and stripped of languages, cultural identities and traditions. They were to become a part of mainstream culture. The government policy failed, but the devastating impacts continue today. Yet the story of residential schools is still relatively unknown and little understood by many.

A core mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) is to educate all Canadians about the complete history of the residential schools, and to inspire reconciliation for individuals, families, communities, religious organizations and peoples of faith, governments, and the people of Canada.

The Anglican, United, and Presbyterian Churches and the Roman Catholic entities which ran residential schools signed the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, whose provisions established the TRC’s mandate. As a result, these Christian denominations are key partners in the TRC’s work. The Government of Canada signed the agreement on behalf of all Canadians.

The TRC knows that reconciliation will be achieved only if peoples of all faiths engage in and participate in the journey of healing and reconciliation in Canada.

TRC national, regional and community events and hearings provide opportunities for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the residential school system.

Individuals and groups are invited and encouraged to organize educational activities to prepare for TRC events and, following these events, to continue to reflect on and engage in dialogue about how they will continue to respond and contribute to healing and reconciliation and the establishment of respectful relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.
I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants who have come to Montreal for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Quebec National Event.

Over the years, Montreal has grown into a cosmopolitan centre with a unique character, largely due to the many communities that call this city home. The Aboriginal community is one of these and now accounts for an increasing portion of the city’s population, as evidenced by their wealth of ancestral traditions and wisdom that enrich our common heritage.

The Ville de Montréal promotes intercultural rapprochement in many ways and is committed to being sensitive to the needs of Aboriginal peoples. An increasing number of Aboriginal people who chose to establish themselves in Montreal are faced with problems that we can all learn to overcome together.

In 2008, we joined forces with the community to set up the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy. This organization works in association with all levels of government and several groups to improve the quality of life of Aboriginals living in the Greater Montreal area and focuses on issues such as health, education, employability and social services.

In 2017, Montreal will celebrate its 375th anniversary. This will be an opportunity to highlight the valuable legacy of the First Nations.

The Ville de Montréal plans to continue its efforts to ensure that solidarity, inclusion and respect remain values that are increasingly shared by all Montrealers.

I would like to congratulate the organizers of this event and thank the participants who stand united in their efforts to inspire an ongoing process of reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

Enjoy your stay.

Michael Applebaum
Mayor of Montreal
**17th century:** First missionary-operated school established near Quebec City

**1879:** The Davin Report recommends federally-run boarding schools

**1892:** Federal government and churches officially partner in operation of schools

**1907:** Indian Affairs chief medical inspector reports numerous deficiencies in the schools

**1920:** Indian Affairs’ Duncan Campbell Scott makes residential school attendance mandatory

**1931:** 80 schools are in operation across Canada

**1958:** Indian Affairs inspectors recommend abolition of residential schools

**1970s:** Residential schools begin to be transferred to Indian bands

**1986:** United Church apologizes for its role in residential schools

**1991:** Phil Fontaine becomes first Aboriginal leader to publicly disclose his abuse at school

**1993:** Anglican Church apologizes for its role in residential schools

**1994:** Presbyterian Church apologizes for its role in residential schools

**1996:** Last government-run residential school closes; Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples publishes a comprehensive report on Aboriginal issues

**1998:** Government, AFN and churches sign $4-billion residential schools settlement agreement

**2006:** Residential schools truth and reconciliation commission launched

**2009:** The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair accepts appointment as TRC Chairperson.
   Chief Wilton Littlechild and Marie Wilson accept appointments as TRC Commissioners

**2009 October 15:** The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, accepts the role of the TRC’s first Honourary Witness

**2010:**
   - TRC holds first National Event in Winnipeg, Man., from June 16-19.
   - The TRC National Event welcomed 40,000 visitors over four days

**2011:**
   - TRC holds Northern National Event in Inuvik, NWT, from June 28-July 1
   - The Atlantic National Event in Halifax, N.S., from Oct. 26-29

**2012:**
   - TRC holds Saskatchewan National Event in Saskatoon from June 21-24

**2013:**
   - TRC will hold Quebec National Event in Montreal April 24-27

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“One of the things the TRC is attempting to do is to establish a national memory about residential schools so that, in four or five generations, no one can say ‘this never happened.’

“The TRC offers the opportunity to Survivors to have their experiences recorded. This record will be housed in a National Research Centre so that future generations will have a resource they can go to in order to understand and explain the Aboriginal perspective on this history.”

- Justice Murray Sinclair, TRC Chair

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"STAY CONNECTED"

TRC National Events and hearings are webcast live at www.trc-cvr.ca. Archived webcasts are available at www.livestream.com/trc_cvr/folder.

Follow us on Twitter at TRC_en or TRC_fr. We’ll be live tweeting from the Quebec National Event Find us under #ONE.

Over 4,000 people like us on Facebook. You should, too! Visit our Truth and Reconciliation Commission page and “like” us today!

Watch TRC videos on YouTube (TheTRCCanada) and Vimeo. Visit our website and click on the icons.

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"RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS TIMELINE"

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— Sources: Aboriginal Healing Foundation, RCAP, TRC
The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada will host its fifth National Event at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, April 24 to 27, 2013.

“The TRC Quebec National Event in Montreal is for everyone, and it shouldn’t be missed. It is important for all of us to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come together.”
— Madeleine Basile, TRC Survivor Committee Member for Quebec

This is an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the residential school system.

This National Event will help to unveil the unique experiences of residential school Survivors from Quebec.

Survivors, both direct and intergenerational, former school staff, and others affected by the schools are invited to come forward and provide private and/or public statements about the impact of residential schools on their lives, that of their families and of their communities.

All members of the public are invited to observe the proceedings as witnesses. The role of a witness is to observe or account for the significance of the event. Bearing witness to the thought-provoking statements of residential school Survivors and others helps to validate the Survivor experience and brings us on a path toward reconciliation.

Join the TRC from April 24 to 27 for:
• Statement gathering;
• Witnessing Survivor statements;
• Traditional ceremonies;
• Photos, films and more.

This Event is Free and Open to Everyone
Please visit the TRC website at trc.ca and click the Quebec National Event tab to learn more.

RECEIVING STATEMENTS

Former residential school students, their families, communities, churches, former school employees, and anyone else affected by the Indian residential schools is encouraged to share their experiences with the TRC.

The TRC will ensure that people can describe their experiences in a safe, respectful and culturally sensitive way. Participation in any TRC activity is voluntary.

You may share your residential school experience through a written or recorded statement, a private one-on-one discussion, or in a public discussion. You may choose to be alone or with any support person of your choice. The TRC will accommodate anyone who wishes to express themselves through music, art, dance, or other drama formats.

The TRC is not a legal process or a judicial body. It does not have powers to subpoena anyone and it will not cross-examine anyone.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To produce a world-class event for all attending, the TRC needs your help in filling a number of volunteer positions for the Quebec National Event at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal from April 24 to 27.

WE NEED HELP WITH:
• Event Registration
• Elder Services
• Event Ambassador
• Event Ground-Aide
• Event Runners
• Tent Ambassador
• VIP Ambassador

If you would like to sign up as a volunteer, please complete the online form by visiting trc.ca and clicking on the Quebec National Event tab.
WHAT TO EXPECT
from the Quebec National Event in
Montreal from April 24 to 27, 2013

National Events are an important part of the
TRC mandate. They’re designed to enable those
affected by the Indian Residential School system
to share their experiences with others and to
record them for future generations.

Hosted in Montreal from April 24 to 27, 2013, the
Quebec National Event will focus on the unique
experiences of Survivors from the province of
Quebec. The courage and resilience of residential
school Survivors and their families will be shared
with all Canadians.

Activities will be held in and near Fairmont The
Queen Elizabeth Hotel, 900 René Lévesque Blvd. W.

TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES
Throughout the Quebec National Event,
traditional ceremonies will mark the official
opening, closing and other appropriate moments.
These ceremonies will be relevant and
respectful of traditional protocols.

The opening ceremony will take place in the
afternoon of Wednesday, April 24, and the
closing ceremony will be on Saturday, April 27.
Please consult the program for details.

TRUTH-TELLING
Residential school Survivors are a focal point
of the National Event. They will be invited to
share their truth and describe how the experience
has affected them and their families. They can
do this in a public forum or a private session.

A variety of health supports will be available.
Professional counselling will be accessible
through service providers registered by Health
Canada. Emotional support will be provided
through a network of Aboriginal Regional Health
Support Workers. Cultural supports will be
provided by Elders.

PUBLIC EDUCATION
The Quebec National Event will provide an
opportunity for the general public to learn about
the history of the residential schools and their legacy.
Activities will include sharing panels and sharing
circles, private statement gathering, traditional
ceremonies, youth programming, cultural
performances, films and more.

RECONCILIATION
Expressions of reconciliation may be offered on
behalf of governments, churches, the business
sector, communities, individuals and
committed groups of citizens. These expressions
help to acknowledge the past and move forward
with a mutual understanding of lessons learned.

WITNESSING
During each ceremony, sharing circle and Calls
to Gather, witnesses from across the country will
be called upon to fulfill the traditional role of
observing and recalling the transfer of knowledge.

“We have this incredible opportunity before us
to develop and nurture relations
of mutual respect between
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.”
— Chief Wilton Littlechild, TRC Commissioner

“I always take great hope in the testimonies
that we hear because no matter how difficult,
how dire, how heartbreaking some of the details are,
there’s almost always a point where people
are able to see the positive in that experience
or what they learned from those hardships.”
— Marie Wilson, TRC Commissioner

“We know we can’t make things better overnight.
It will take generations. It will take concerted effort
over several generations.
That’s how the damage was done and
that’s how it will be repaired.”
— Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair TRC
Young people have been involved in TRC National Events in a variety of ways. They have been volunteers, participants in Education Day, supporters and presenters.

While all young people have their own personal reasons for being involved, they also have a similar goal in common — to make their community a better, healthier place.

The Wapikoni Mobile: An outstanding collection of short films directed by Quebec’s First Nations Youth

The TRC is honoured to showcase short films by Quebec’s First Nations youth during the Quebec National Event.

A travelling audio-visual and music training studio, the Wapikoni mobile has been visiting Quebec’s First Nation communities since 2004. Initiated by the filmmaker Manon Barbeau, this intervention and skills-learning initiative was co-founded by the Atikamekw Nation Council and the First Nations Youth Council, with support of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, and assistance from the National Film Board of Canada.

The Wapikoni mobile gives First Nations youth the opportunity to express themselves through video and music, to expand their horizons beyond their usual surroundings and allow them to shine in their own communities and throughout the world. While encouraging the emergence of talents, the project facilitates both exchange and communication between these young people and helps reduce their isolation.

With their short-film screenings, first within their own communities, then before both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal audiences from all cultural backgrounds, Wapikoni mobile’s young Aboriginal creators become ambassadors of a rich contemporary culture that is all too often overlooked. The long-term objective is to increase their knowledge of communication tools and establish an international network of First Nations creators who speak up and are heard.
The TRC welcomes Project of Heart to Education Day!

Project of Heart is an inquiry-based, hands-on, collaborative, intergenerational, artistic journey of seeking truth about the history of Aboriginal people in Canada. Its purpose is to:

- Examine the history and legacy of Indian residential schools in Canada and to seek the truth about that history, leading to the acknowledgement of the extent of loss to former students, their families and communities;
- Commemorate the lives of the thousands of Indigenous children who died as a result of the residential school experience;
- Call Canadians to action, through social justice endeavours, to change our present and future history collectively.

Project of Heart acknowledges the families and communities to whom those children belonged. It was originally designed to bring awareness both to the settler community and communities of new Canadians. Project of Heart has evolved, through community ownership of the project itself, to educate all Canadians about the history and legacy of this crime and tragedy.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis are the fast-growing population in Canada. You are a young population, growing at a rate six times faster than the non-Aboriginal population.

As the aging Canadian population retires and moves out of the workforce, this not only creates a need, but an opportunity for skilled and motivated Aboriginal talent. Aboriginal participation in the Canadian economy has the potential to change and shape the perceptions of Aboriginal people.

This is just one reason why, as young people, it is important for you to understand how the legacy of the 150-year history of the residential schools affects you. While you may not have attended a residential school, you are indeed an intergenerational Survivor. This is because while Aboriginal students were being taught in residential schools not to respect themselves, mainstream Canadians were also being taught not to respect Aboriginal people.

Through the work of the Commission, we will ensure that the whole world hears the truth about residential schools. While the journey toward reconciliation is a long one, we do not travel it alone.

All young people have an opportunity to take a leadership role in providing the education that will help to forge new relationships between Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians.

“Education got us into this and it is education that will get us out.”
— Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Why is it important for Aboriginal YOUTH to get involved in the TRC?

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The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is undertaking a special initiative called **THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT**

**WHO WERE THESE CHILDREN?**

Aboriginal children were removed from their families and communities and sent away to residential schools. Many never returned home. Some children ran away, while others died at the schools. The exact number of children who died at school is not known, but the death rates for many schools, particularly during times of epidemic or disease, were very high. Often, parents never found out what happened to their children. The students who did not return have come to be known as the Missing Children.

**WHAT IS THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT?**

The Missing Children Project will help compile information related to Missing Children. This information could include:

- Names of children who died while attending a residential school;
- A list of children who never returned to their families and communities;
- What happened to those children who disappeared.

**HOW CAN I HELP?**

Do you know of a child who attended residential school, who never returned home and whose fate is still unknown?

Do you know of a child who died in a residential school?

Do you know of burial sites where Missing Children may have been buried?

If you have information you would like to share about a death or disappearance at a residential school, you can contact the TRC toll-free at 1-888-872-5554.

**WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE?**

The information compiled will be made available through the Indian Residential School (IRS) National Research Centre. Families, friends and communities will be able to use this information to determine what happened to their loved ones.

**I WANT TO KNOW MORE**

- Visit the Missing Children booth at the TRC National Event in Montreal (located in the Learning Place, Hochelaga 1-4).
- Email info@trc.ca and put Missing Children in the subject line.

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“It’s staggering to think that families would not have known what happened to a child that was sent off to the residential schools. There was a huge vacuum of information. What was fed back to the immediate family was highly inconsistent.”

— Dr. Andrew McCallum, Chief Coroner of Ontario

The first provincial/territorial coroner’s office to contribute to the Missing Children Project was the Ontario Coroner’s Office. Other coroners’ offices across Canada have also been asked to take part.
"Residential schools operated in Canada for well over a century. In the same way, the reconciliation process will have to span generations. It will take time to re-establish respect. It will take time and commitment to reverse this legacy."
— Chief Wilton Littlechild, TRC Commissioner

The long-term work of reconciliation is everyone’s responsibility and it’s going to take all of us working together to have true reconciliation.

All Canadians are invited to help the TRC explain why this is so important — why it matters to everyone.

You are invited as an individual, family, community, organization, church, government, or group of friends to tell others why the work of truth-sharing, healing and reconciliation among all Canadians matters.

"Reconciliation is an opportunity for all of us as Canadians to come together and embark on a new path of hope for the future."
— Chief Wilton Littlechild, TRC Commissioner

Ribbons of Reconciliation is one initiative that encourages individuals, groups and communities to express their commitment to each other’s future and to their future together.

Help further the nationwide conversation about why healing and reconciliation matters by creating a ribbon of your own.

Simply complete the phrase It Matters to Me... Because Ribbons of Reconciliation can take any form that is meaningful to or expressive of the people creating them — your culture, your history, your vision, and your imagination – they may take any shape, size or form and be made of any type of material. The ribbons may include a written message or use images, perhaps even sounds, to express hope for the future.

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

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. You can share your ribbon with your neighbours and community, wear it on your clothing, or bring it to the Learning Place at the TRC Quebec National Event in Montreal and have it displayed.

Not sure what to do? Visit the Learning Place and make a paper ribbon for the display there (materials provided).

DATE: April 24-27, 2013
TIME: See event program for times
LOCATION: Learning Place in Hochelaga 1-4

"I call on all 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.

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

Bearing witness to the stories of residential school Survivors helps to validate their experiences.

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.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The TRC would like to recognize those companies and organizations that are making the Quebec National Event possible:

GOVERNMENT

Québec  
Montréal

CORPORATE

RBC

SHAW MEDIA

The Gazette  
montrealgazette.com

AEREO PLAN BEYOND MILES

FAIRMONT

The Queen Elizabeth  
MONTREAL

AVW • TELAV

gowlings  
Gowling WLG

FIRST AIR  
The Airline of the North

CHURCHES

The United Church of Canada

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

For a complete listing of those that contributed visit trc.ca

HEALTH SUPPORTS

During the Quebec National Event, Survivors will share many personal and emotional experiences, as well as hope for change and reconciliation.

Health Supports play an important role in National Events and the statement-gathering process. They are a part of all TRC events and hearings.

Health Supports provide emotional support and care to those in the audience and those sharing their experiences. Support is available before, during and after the hearings.

THREE KINDS OF SUPPORT WORKERS ARE AVAILABLE:

• Professional Therapists;
• Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSWs);
• Cultural Supports — Elders or Aboriginal health support workers who will listen and provide information.

Health Canada health support workers will be available and easily identifiable on site as they will be wearing navy-blue vests and beige vests.

For more information about available health supports:

HEALTH CANADA
QUEBEC REGION

Regional help line:
1-855-496-6602 (toll-free) or
514-496-6602 (local)

Teletypewriter:
1-800-267-1245 (Health Canada)

THE 24-HOUR NATIONAL CRISIS LINE...

is also available to provide immediate assistance:
1-866-925-4419