

reconciliation
CANADA



RECONCILIATION DIALOGUE WORKSHOP

GATHERING OF WISDOM

Thursday, October 24, 2013

8:30	Opening Prayer
8:35	Welcome and Introductions
8:40 – 9:15	Round of Introductions in Large Circle: <i>Name & traditional name</i> <i>Where you are from? (ancestors)</i>
9:15 – 9:30	History and impacts of Indian Residential Schools Power Point Presentation
9:30 – 9:35	Elders Video – The Language of Reconciliation
9:35 – 9:40	DIADS: <i>What are sources of resilience in your culture?</i> <i>What does reconciliation mean to me?</i>
9:40 – 9:55	Personal Reconciliation Action Plans
9:55 – 10:00	Closing Remarks



Reconciliation Canada

HISTORY AND IMPACTS OF
INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

History

- ST MARY' S INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL AT MISSION B.C, WAS THE FIRST TO OPEN IN 1861
- THE LAST SCHOOL TO CLOSE WAS IN SASKATCHEWAN IN 1996
- HARDLY A LONG TIME AGO....

ST MARY'S



As Young As 4 Years Old

- RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS OPERATED FOR OVER 130 YEARS
- GENERATION AFTER GENERATION OF LITTLE CHILDREN ATTENDED THESE INSTITUTIONS
- IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 150,000 CHILDREN PASSED THROUGH THE DOORS OF THESE NOW INFAMOUS PLACES

BOYS & GIRLS WERE SEPERATED



Assimilation

- EVERY CHILD SUFFERED SOME DEGREE OF TRAUMA AND LOSS....GENERATION AFTER GENERATION
- THE STATED POLICY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS TO ASSIMILATE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE INTO THE DOMINANT SOCIETY; THE CHURCH POLICY WAS TO CHRISTIANIZE
- IN 1884 THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, SIR JOHN A MCDONALD SAID; “I THINK WE MUST BY SLOW DEGREE EDUCATE GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, UNTIL THE NATURE OF THE ANIMAL ALMOST IS CHANGED BY THE NATURE OF THE SURROUNDINGS”

AUTHORITIES SAID:

ON JANUARY 1, 1920, FORMER DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT SAID:

“I WANT TO GET RID OF THE INDIAN PROBLEM UNTIL THERE IS NOT A SINGLE INDIAN IN CANADA THAT HAS NOT BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE BODY POLITIC AND THERE IS NO INDIAN QUESTION AND NO INDIAN DEPARTMENT”

IN 1932....NO LESS AN AUHORITY THAN SCOTT ASSERTED:

“SYSTEM WIDE %50 OF THE CHILDREN WHO PASSED THROUGH THESE SCHOOLS DID NOT LIVE TO BENEFIT FROM THE EDUCATION WHICH THEY HAD RECEIVED WITHIN”

SOME DID NOT SURVIVE



Colonization

WHILE PM HARPER HAS SAID RECENTLY THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A COLONIAL PAST....IT IS CLEAR THAT COLONIZATION HAS OCCURRED.

“COLONIZATION” IS THE MORE OR LESS SYSTEMATIC SETTLEMENT OF THE TERRITORY BY MEMBERS OF THE COLONIZING SOCIETY AND THE EVENTUAL TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY TO THE SETTLER SOCIETY (DOUGLAS HARRIS 2001)

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE BECAME WARDS OF THE STATE

THEY WERE TREATED AS CHILDREN IN NEED OF PROTECTION

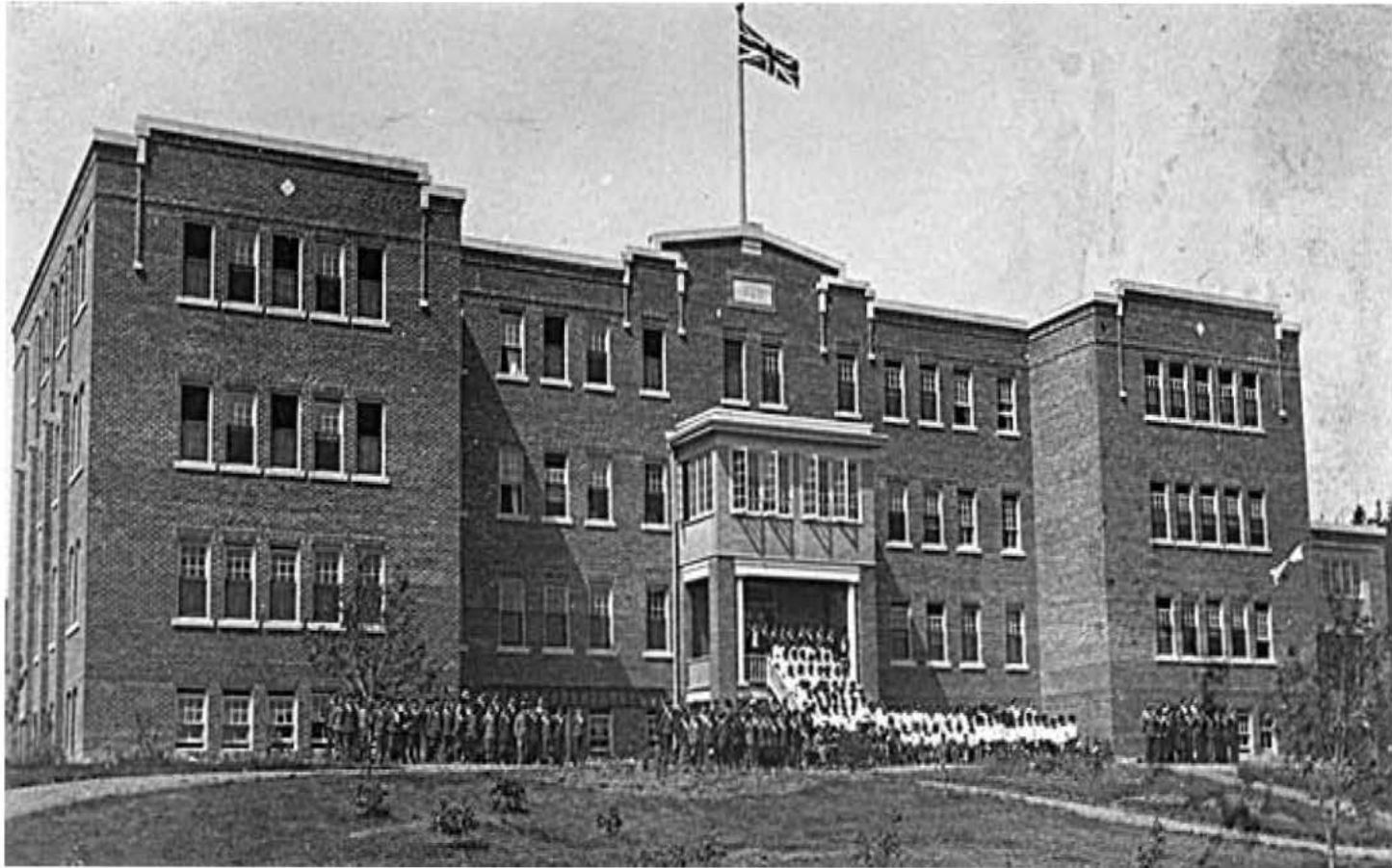
THIS ENABLED THE STATE TO EXPLOIT ABORIGINAL LANDS AND RESOURCES AND TO DECLARE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AS SAVAGES....UNCIVILIZED AND CLOSE TO NATURE WHILE ALL OTHERS WERE FREE

THE INDIAN ACT



- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENACTED THE INDIAN ACT IN 1867 TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POWERS
- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STATED IT'S INTENTION TO SOLVE THE INDIAN PROBLEM THROUGH ASSIMILIATION
- AND DESTRUCTION OF ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND LANGUAGES
- THROUGH THE DESTRUCTION OF TRADITIONAL WAYS OF LIFE.
 - PUT LAND TO PROPER USE TO ENHANCE WEALTH
 - SUPPRESS LEGAL RIGHTS
 - ABOLISH THE RIGHT TO GATHER AND ORGANIZE
 - DENY ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES TO HUNT AND FISH
 - RESTRICTED ACCESS TO COMMERCE....

ST MICHEAL'S



DESTRUCTION



THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS BUT ONE OF MANY INSTRUMENTS TO MARGINALIZE AND DESTROY ABORIGINAL PEOPLE....IT WAS THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE

ITS IMPACT RESONATES STILL THROUGH ABORIGINAL FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.....WE KNOW FAR TOO WELL THE CONDITIONS THAT NOW PREVAIL.

SUFFERING OF CHILDREN

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WE ARE REMINDED THAT:

FN CHILDREN WERE CONFINED WITHIN THE WALLS AND GATES OF THE SCHOOLS FOR 10 TO 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR.....FOR UP TO 15 OR 16 YEARS. CUT OFF FROM THEIR PARENTS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND MAINSTREAM SOCIETY

THEY WERE FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK THEIR TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE AND WERE PUNISHED IF CAUGHT DOING SO

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSES WERE CONSTANT; SHAMING BY PUBLIC BEATINGS OF NAKED CHILDREN, CONSTANT RACISM, PUBLIC STRIP AND GENITAL SEARCHES, WITHHOLDING PRESENTS AND LETTERS FROM FAMILY, LOCKING CHILDREN IN CLOSETS AND CAGES

THE SCHOOLS WERE PLACES OF PROFOUND PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE; SEXUAL ASSAULTS, FORCED ABORTIONS OF STAFF IMPREGNATED GIRLS, NEEDLES INSERTED INTO TONGUES FOR SPEAKING AN ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE, BURNING, SCALDING, BEATINGS UNTIL UNCONSCIOUS AND/OR INFLECTING PERMANENT INJURY

THE CHILDREN ALSO ENDURED ELECTRICAL SHOCK, FORCE-FEEDING OF THEIR OWN VOMIT WHEN SICK, EXPOSURE TO FREEZING OUTSIDE TEMPERATURES, WITHHOLDING OF MEDICAL ATTENTION, SHAVED HEADS (A CULTURAL VIOLATION), STARVATION (AS PUNISHMENT), FORCED LABOUR IN UNSAFE WORK SITUATIONS, INTENTIONAL CONTAMINATION WITH DISEASED BLANKETS, INSUFFICIENT FOOD FOR BASIC NUTRITION AND/OR SPOILT FOOD.

ESTIMATES SUGGESTED THAT AS MANY AS %60 OF THE STUDENTS DIED (DUE TO ILLNESS, BEATINGS, ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE, OR SUICIDE) WHILE IN THE SCHOOLS

EFFECTS TODAY



THE EFFECTS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM HAVE BEEN CRUSHING AS INDICATED BY:

HIGH SUICIDE RATES
HIGH RATES OF DROP OUTS IN SCHOOL
HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT
LATERAL VIOLENCE
CHILD ABUSE
SEXUAL PREDATORS IN OUR COMMUNITIES
FASD
MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS (PTSD)
MEDICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS (DIABETES, HIGH CHOLESTEROL, HEART CONDITIONS.....)
UNRESOLVED ANGER AND MISDIRECTED ANGER
INCEST
BROKEN OR STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS
ADDICTIONS
POVERTY (PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY, FINANCIALLY)
LACK OF MOTIVATION
SHRINKING PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES
INABILITY TO SHOW AND SHARE AFFECTION
DEPRESSED STATE
INDIFFERENCE, NO CONNECTIONS TO PARENTS, SIBLINGS OR CHILDREN
UNRESOLVED GRIEVING
CHRONIC BOREDOM

A New Era



- A NEW ERA IS EMERGING. AN ERA OF RECONCILIATION
- HEALING IS TAKING PLACE ACROSS THIS LAND
- AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SETTLEMENT IS IN PLACE
- THIS INCLUDES:
 - A COMMON EXPERIENCE PAYMENT
 - AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
 - A COMMEMORATION PROJECT
 - ADDITIONAL MONIES TO AHF
 - \$60 MILLION FOR TRC
 - AND THERE IS THE APOLOGY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

AN APOLOGY

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A New Way Forward



THE TRC OF CANADA IS HOSTED A NATIONAL EVENT IN B.C. IN SEPTEMBER.

RECONCILIATION CANADA WAS FORMED TO HEIGHTEN AWARENESS AND PREPARE COMMUNITIES AROUND THIS SIGNIFICANT EVENT. TO PREPARE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO HAVE DIALOGUE AND SOME UNDERSTANDING OF RECONCILIATION; AND TO PROMOTE SUSTAINING RECONCILIATION

AT THE WALK FOR RECONCILIATION, DURING RECONCILIATION WEEK, 70,000 PEOPLE BRAVED THE RAINY WEATHER TO WALK IN SPIRIT OF CELEBRATION A NEW WAY FORWARD.

CITY OF RECONCILIATION

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Reconciliation



THERE IS A BUZZ IN THE CITY ABOUT THE WORK THAT WE WILL ALL BE DOING.

MANY PEOPLE ARE EXCITED AND WANT TO SUPPORT US

THE TIME IS RIGHT TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION!!

EVEN OUR ELDERS SAY SO:



A SHARED TOMORROW

We are Elders from Aboriginal and other ancient histories who care about Canadians and answered a call to action in November 2012. For two days, we gathered on the traditional territories of the Musqueam People to explore how Reconciliation, as a way of being, can help our society move forward. To that end we have made a video to explain who we are and invite you to join us on this path. Our purpose is to speak some truths about the trauma of Indian Residential Schools and other atrocities that have been imposed upon humans around the world. As Canadians, we share a responsibility to look after each other and acknowledge the pain and suffering that our diverse societies have endured – a pain that has been handed down to the next generations. We need to right those wrongs, heal together, and create a new future that honours the unique gifts of our children and grandchildren.

How do we do this? Through sharing our personal stories, legends and traditional teachings, we found that we are interconnected through the same mind and spirit. Our traditional teachings speak to acts such as holding one another up, walking together, balance, healing, and unity. Our stories show how these teachings can heal their pain and restore dignity. We discovered that in all of our cultural traditions there are teachings about reconciliation, forgiveness, unity, healing and balance. We invite you to search in your own traditions and beliefs, and those of your ancestors, to find these core values that create a peaceful harmonious society and a healthy earth. With those ways of being in mind, join us in facing the challenge of healing Canada of its painful past so we can leave a better future for our children. With those ancient ways in our hearts and the future in our minds, let's hold hands and walk together. **In that spirit, we invite you to join in Reconciliation Canada's initiatives.**

RESPECTFULLY, YOUR ELDERS;



Larry Grant
Musqueam Elder

Ashok Mathur
South Asian artist, writer, and cultural organizer; Director of the Centre for innovation in Culture and the Arts in Canada (CiCAC), Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC.

Grace Eiko Thomson
Japanese Canadian Historian and Curator; Former President, National Association of Japanese Canadians.

Winnie L. Cheung
Director & Past President of the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS).

Farid Rohani
Bahai; Chair of the Board, Laurier Institution.

Andy Yellowback,
Cree Elder, Northern Manitoba

Bessie Yellowback, BSW, RSW Gitxsan First Nation Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society Resource Social Worker.

Robbie Waisman
Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society For Education and Remembrance

Dr. Marie Anderson, BSW, MSW, PhD. Cooks Ferry Band, Nlakapmux Tribe; CEO Heywaynoqu Healing Circle For Addiction Society and Co-Developer and Sessional Instructor Chemical Addictions Program, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology.

Yvonne Rigsby-Jones
Snuneymuxw First Nation; Executive Director, Tsow-Tun Le Lum.

Barney Williams Member of The Indian Residential School Survivors Committee for Truth and Reconciliation.

William A. White, BA History and Anthropology; Coast Salish Elder, Tsowtunlelum Elder in Residence/Cultural Resource Worker; Principal Researcher Kwam Kwum Sulitst HIV AIDS Project Cowichan Tribes.

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph,
Gwawaenuk Elder; Ambassador, Reconciliation Canada; Indian Residential Schools Survivor Society.

www.reconciliationcanada.ca