



## FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE: CONVERSATION GUIDE

This conversation guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and learning communities or as a self-paced study. It is designed to give each reader parts of “truth” that will lead individuals and groups in the direction of reconciliation. This guide is not a substitute for engaging in meaningful conversations with the Indigenous community.

### Overview of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

#### REFERENCES

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action**

[http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

**What is Reconciliation?**

<https://vimeo.com/25389165>

**National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**

[www.nctr.ca](http://www.nctr.ca)

#### TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION TIMELINE

**Sept, 2007** Canada’s largest class action settlement, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, is signed between the federal government, church organizations and survivors of the schools.

**June 1, 2008** As a requirement of the Agreement, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is launched to inform Canadians about the residential school system and abuses.

**June 11, 2008** Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other party leaders deliver a formal apology in the House of Commons to survivors.

**June 2010** The TRC holds the first of its seven national events. The events invited survivors to share their stories about the schools and their legacy. The events included:

- Statement Gathering
- Traditional Ceremonies
- Survivor Gatherings
- Education Day
- Witnessing Survivor Statements
- Cultural Performances
- Films

Each TRC National Event was dedicated to one of the Seven Sacred Teachings – love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth.

The seventh and final national event was held in Edmonton on March 27-30th 2014.

**Feb. 24, 2012** The Commission issues its interim report under the heading “Lack of Cooperation,” based on the federal government’s hesitation in disclosing documents.



*Photo Source: The Edmonton Examiner 2014*

**Jan. 30, 2013** Justice Stephen Goudge rules that Canada must disclose its records to the Commission in a useful archival format.

**June 21, 2013** The University of Manitoba agrees to host the National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. As the permanent home for all statements, documents and other materials gathered by the TRC, the NCTR ensures that:

- Former students and their families have access to their own history
- Educators can share the Indian Residential School history with future generations of students
- Researchers can more deeply explore the Residential School experience
- The public can access historical records and other materials to help foster reconciliation and healing
- The history and legacy of the residential school system are never forgotten.

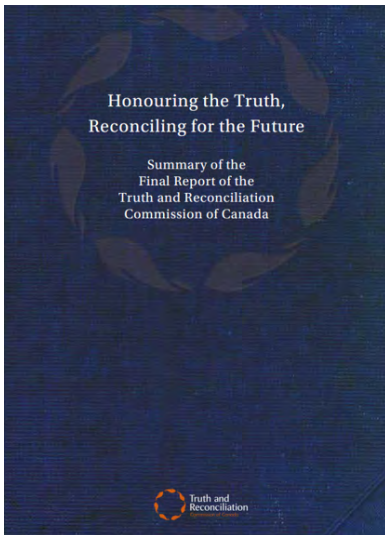
**Jan. 14, 2014** Ontario Superior Court of Justice rules that Canada and the OPP must disclose investigative records related to St. Anne's residential school, where staff received criminal convictions for abusing students.



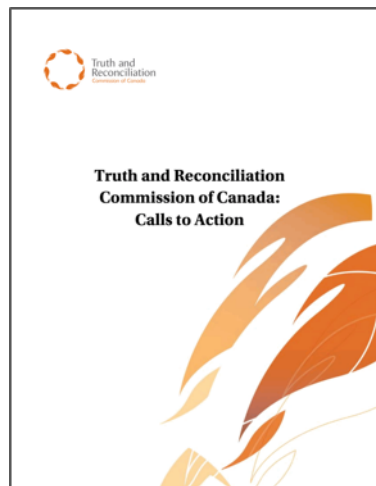
## National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

**June 2015** The TRC releases its final report. A comprehensive historical record on the policies and operations of the residential schools. The TRC is dissolved, passing all its records to the National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.



**June 2015** From the Final Report, the Calls to Action are created.



In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes 94 calls to action. Calls to action 7, 11, 16, 62, 63, 64 and 65 are directly related to education.

This essential document urges all levels of government – federal, provincial, territorial and aboriginal – to work together to change policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Reflect on and discuss the following questions after reading this conversation guide.

- What new information did you learn from this conversation guide? What resonated with you?
- What important lessons can we draw from learning about TRC?
- What messages should be conveyed about TRC?

Take turns sharing your thoughts and building upon your ideas.

### Reference 1: Calls to Action

Read calls to action 7, 11, 16, 62, 63, 64 and 65 in the Education for Reconciliation portion of Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.

Which calls to action apply to you? Which call to action are you committing to honour in order to advance in reconciliation? What do you need in order to answer the call?

### Reference 2: What is Reconciliation?

Watch the video on reconciliation with Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair: <https://vimeo.com/25389165>

What can we do today that will contribute to “restoring balance” to Canada’s relationship with the Indigenous community?

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

[www.nctr.ca](http://www.nctr.ca)

### Final Report

[http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Volume\\_6\\_Reconciliation\\_English\\_Web.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Volume_6_Reconciliation_English_Web.pdf)

### 10 Books About Truth and Reconciliation to Read With Your Kids

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/10-books-about-residential-schools-to-read-with-your-kids-1.3208021>

### Empowering the Spirit

<http://empoweringthespirit.ca/>



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