

WALK FOR RECONCILIATION

Sunday, September 24, 2017



Reconciliation
Canada



Canada 150+
Moving forward together
Ensemble, allons de l'avant

On September 24, 2017, Reconciliation Canada will host the **Walk for Reconciliation** in Vancouver.

Reconciliation Canada hosted the Walk for Reconciliation in Vancouver in 2013, bringing 70,000 people together for the first event of its kind. In 2015, Reconciliation Canada co-hosted the Walk for Reconciliation in Ottawa to coincide with the closing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Why now?

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation. This year provides a unique opportunity for reflection. The Walk for Reconciliation: Vancouver will celebrate our shared commitment to move forward in the next 150 years in a new way, and to transform and renew the very essence of the relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

For reconciliation in Canada to be impactful, diverse perspectives must be included in the conversation. Reconciliation is a process that all peoples in Canada must be part of.



“Walking here together, survivors and supporters, is something I would not miss. It's one of the times in my life where I'm most proud to be a Canadian”

Wendy Kotilla
Participant, Walk for Reconciliation:
Vancouver, 2013

“Reconciliation didn't end on that day with 70,000 people. It's going to go further”

Linda Morris
Former Senior Vice President, Business
Development, Member and
Community Engagement, Vancity
Participant, Walk for Reconciliation:
Vancouver, 2013

Get Involved

Volunteer

Reconciliation Canada is seeking volunteers who wish to personally contribute to the reconciliation process.

Become a Partner

Reconciliation Canada is dedicated to building partnerships with organizations that share our values and guiding principles. Learn how your organization can contribute to reconciliation in Canada.

Donate

Reconciliation Canada is a registered charity. We rely on the generosity of partners and individual supporters like you to deliver reconciliation programs and initiatives.

Register a Walk Team

More than 300 Walk Teams from diverse organizations joined the Walk for Reconciliation in 2013. Start a Walk Team or register your team today.

This project is funded in part
by the Government of Canada.



Canada

Community Sponsor



Learn more

www.reconciliationcanada.ca



Reconciliation Art Project

The Reconciliation Art Project is designed to help children, in an artistic and engaging way, explore our shared history and begin to imagine a future of togetherness between Indigenous People and all Canadians. The project hopes to encourage children to consider what reconciliation means to them personally, through their own introspection, and to reflect their hopes for a future that includes everyone, regardless of race, culture or religion.

Some of the art objects children create will be handed out as gifts to Elders attending Reconciliation Canada's *Walk for Reconciliation*, taking place September 24th, 2017 in Vancouver. The majority of the rocks will be used in a large art installation in Strathcona Park which will greet participants where the walk ends. Building on previous years, this year, more than 70 000 people are expected to attend.

Lesson Plan:

In this 150th year of Canada's beginning, it is important to acknowledge that Indigenous People have lived on this land for thousands of years. On reflection of this fact, children are asked to find a few small rocks, symbols of Indigenous identity, permanence, strength and resilience.

Rocks can be collected:

- On recess or over lunch, if rocks can be easily found on the school ground
- As a homework assignment - on their way home from school or on excursion with their parents, guardians or siblings
- As part of the lesson, the entire class can do a mini excursion to find rocks and possibly paint their rocks outside.

The ideal rocks:

- Need to be small - can fit easily in the palm of the hand, in a pocket
- Are a light colour - dark rocks are more difficult to paint
- Might need to be washed or cleaned in preparation for painting

Once children have collected their rocks, an adult should read them the attached interview of Chief Robert Joseph, ambassador to Reconciliation Canada, which focuses on what reconciliation means to Indigenous People and why the walk is so important. There are two versions of the interview, one in its original form and another more simplified version for younger children. If deemed appropriate, teachers are encouraged to connect this content to any previous lessons on First Nations history that may have been covered.

After a brief discussion, children are encouraged to paint their rocks, understanding that they will be used as gifts or in an installation to commemorate the walk. Students can be encouraged to write a hopeful word on the rock that reflects what reconciliation means to them.

Materials needed:

- Sharpies / coloured felt markers (ideally)
- Acrylic paint and paint brushes
- Water for cleaning the brushes between colours
- Paper towels

Instructions for sending in your rocks:

If you live **in the Lower Mainland**:

Deliver your rocks to Strathcona Park in Vancouver on Saturday September 23rd between 12 and 2pm OR Bring your rocks with you to the Walk for Reconciliation on Sunday September 24th and add them directly to the art installation in Strathcona Park.

Contact **Ciera DeSilva** at ciera.desilva@gmail.com with any questions and to coordinate the pickup of your rocks and voluntary exchange of some photos of your group's rocks.

If you live **anywhere else** in Canada (including Vancouver Island):

Contact **Ciera DeSilva** at ciera.desilva@gmail.com who can answer any questions and coordinate the voluntary exchange of some photos of your group with their rocks.

You are also encouraged to **send one small rock by mail** to Vancouver, to be included in the large art installation; please contact Ciera for a mailing address.

Please consider having students photograph their rocks and post them to **social media**. Use the following hashtags to link to the larger project: **#ReconciliationArtProject #WalkForRec**

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Rec_Can tag **@Rec_Can** and **@ddouez**

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reconciliationcanada> tag **@reconciliationcanada**

For more information about this project please contact the project producer, **Debbie Douez** at debbiedouez@gmail.com. Thank you for participating!!

Why is Reconciliation important?:

An Interview with Chief Robert Joseph O.B.C.

(modified for a younger audience)

By Debbie Douez, Reconciliation Art Project Coordinator
April 27, 2017, Vancouver, Canada.

Chief Joseph is currently the **Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada** and a member of the **National Assembly of First Nations Elders Council**. He was formerly the Executive Director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society and is an honorary witness to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). As **Chairman of the Native American Leadership Alliance for Peace and Reconciliation** and **Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation with the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IFWP)**, Chief Joseph has sat with the leaders of South Africa, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia and Washington, DC to learn from and share his understanding of faith, hope, healing and reconciliation. Chief Joseph is the **Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation**.

He was interviewed at the Reconciliation Canada office in North Vancouver and asked to explain what reconciliation means and why participating in the upcoming **Walk for Reconciliation** is so important for Indigenous People in Canada today. This is what he said:

Chief Joseph, what does reconciliation mean?

For me personally reconciliation is finding peace and contentment within. Once you find peace, and love of self, you never want to hurt anyone ever again, or be hurt by anyone else. I grew up at a time when I believed that no one cared about me because I was terribly, terribly hurt. I've learned that there is only one force that is bigger and greater than all the hurt and darkness and it's the idea that I can love myself again. If I really truly discover how to love myself, I discover how to love everybody else. So this is why I say, reconciliation begins with you, as it begins with me.

The need for reconciliation, of course, expands to include the many ways Aboriginal People have been hurt. Reconciliation calls on all of us to just talk about the ways that we have been hurt. We can ask: is this the way to be treating one another? Of course the answer will be no. None of us were ever born to be mean or angry or full of hate; it's not natural! So reconciliation is really about treating others as we would want to be treated regardless of who they are or how they are living. If we accept each other the way we are, then we don't need to hurt each other.

Why is the walk important?

There are many Aboriginal People who are really sad and are still having bad things happening to them. Bad things have been happening for so long that they don't believe it will ever change - they think that nobody cares. Then all of a sudden they see thousands of people come out on the streets of Vancouver and they think - oh my god, people do care! At that last walk (in 2013), there were a lot of Aboriginal People and they were crying because they didn't know that people could care about them. Our history was so bad. It's been so bad that most of us grew up feeling that we weren't loved, even by our own parents. So to create this powerful demonstration of caring like this walk, is really important. It will tell Aboriginal People, that Canadians STILL care about them.

What is your vision for a future Canada should reconciliation take root?

Ahh, it's going to take root and it's going to survive. There will be a lot of challenges of course. But when we are reconciled, I see a Canada that is one. That Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals all belong here and we finally recognize that the best way forward, is by working together. I see a Canada where every child born to this country has the same potential and the same opportunity to dream and become whatever they want to become. I see that as so important. Everyone will have a place here. When we get there, to this future Canada and we are celebrating our differences, we are going to be so rich. I think we could be a model for the world.

The Walk for Reconciliation takes place on September 24th, 2017 in downtown Vancouver.

More resources teachers can use as part of this lesson:

1. A video series produced by SFU, interviewing Chief Joseph about Reconciliation
Part 1: Culture and Ancestry https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge_pM9k1CPs
Part 3: Reconciliation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLjcpO1JC84>

Note to teachers: Please review these short videos prior to sharing with your class to ensure appropriateness for their age/maturity level. Part 2 was omitted for younger children due to the nature of the talk but can also be considered if deemed appropriate. It may be found in the original interview version.

2. 2013 Walk Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJZWNN0egfo>

RECONCILIATION CANADA PROGRAMS

Reconciliation in Action:

A National Engagement Strategy

Reconciliation in Action: A National Engagement Strategy will examine and document perceptions, actions and aspirations of Canadians in relation to reconciliation. This narrative will recognize our common history, highlight current achievements and create hope for the next 150 years.

Reconciliation in Action: A National Engagement Strategy is a Canada 150 Signature Project.

Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops

Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops bring together community leaders to build meaningful partnerships and identify opportunities for collaboration. Each workshop creates a safe space for participants to share personal stories, discuss visions for a better future, and to develop individual and collective Reconciliation Action Plans.

Public Awareness and Education

Public awareness and interactive community outreach activities promote an understanding of our shared histories. Our initiatives allow participants to explore the meaning of reconciliation through community events, keynote speeches and presentations.



NATIONAL THOUGHT TABLE ON RECONCILIATION TABLE DE RÉFLEXION NATIONALE SUR LA RÉCONCILIATION

MAY 10TH, 2017 4:30PM PDT | 10 MAI 2017 16h30 HAP

The National Thought Table on Reconciliation will gather notable thought leaders for a roundtable discussion on the multifaceted nature of reconciliation in Canada.

Tune in to the live-stream at www.reconciliationcanada.ca/ntt