

MEDIA ADVISORY
May 22, 2015

**Vancouver's Downtown Churches & Reconciliation Canada to host
RECONCILIATION MATTERS: a Community Street Fair and Ecumenical Services, marking the Closing
Events of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission - Sunday May 31st, 2015**

Vancouver, B.C. – Clergy of Downtown Vancouver churches have planned special observances for Sunday May 31st to mark the closing events of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Church clergy have collaborated with Reconciliation Canada on a day-long event called “Reconciliation Matters.” Commencing at the same time as the Walk for Reconciliation in Ottawa, “Reconciliation Matters” aims to bring people from many traditions and backgrounds together to support Indian Residential Schools survivors in their ongoing journeys towards healing and reconciliation. In doing so, the organizing committee hopes that Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians can begin this moment in history by charting a New Way Forward together.

This day-long event include activities such as the lighting of the sacred fire, a blanket exercise, a community street fair which will host a variety of artisans, food trucks and entertainment as well as an addresses from Douglas White, Director for the Centre of Pre-Confederation Treaties and Reconciliation at Vancouver Island University and City of Vancouver Deputy Mayor, Raymond Louie.

When: Sunday, May 31, 2015

Program:

9:00am – Lighting of the Sacred Fire (subject to permit approval)

10:30am – Ecumenical Service – St. Andrews-Wesley United Church –congregations and choirs from Christ Church Cathedral, Central Presbyterian and St. Andrews-Wesley United Church joining together. Open to the public. Douglas White will address the congregations.

12:00pm – Vancouver Deputy Mayor Raymond Louie will open a Community Street Fair – Sheraton Wall Centre Courtyard 1088 Burrard St, Vancouver, BC

2:30pm – Ecumenical prayer service – First Baptist Church 969 Burrard St, Vancouver

Media interviews may be scheduled before or after the event with key participants, subject to availability.

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Media contact:

Dean Peter Elliott, Christ Church Anglican Cathedral

O: 604-563-6445, Email: pgelliott@me.com