



PLAN YOUR OWN EVENT

ABOUT THIS CALL TO ACTION: WHY ORGANIZE AN EVENT?

Reconciliation events in your community serve an essential role in raising awareness and demonstrating community support for reconciliation. It sounds simple, but the act of gathering and sharing our stories has the potential to join us all in a shared commitment to create a new way forward. A Community Reconciliation Event can take many forms and can vary in scale from large gatherings to smaller community functions. Make it work for you!

BACKGROUND:

Who is Reconciliation Canada?

Our Vision: A vibrant, inclusive Canada where all peoples achieve their full potential and shared prosperity.

Our Purpose: Reconciliation Canada is an Aboriginal-led organization building meaningful relationships through transformative experiences.

Reconciliation Canada is building new relationships between Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians – relationships built on a foundation of openness, dignity, understanding and hope. Our focus extends beyond the Indian Residential School experience to those communities who have received official

apologies from the government of Canada, including the Jewish, Sikh, Chinese and Japanese peoples.

Our initiatives engage people from every part of Canadian society in open and honest conversation about our diverse histories and experiences in order to build resilient and sustainable communities.

Born from the vision of Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk Elder, Reconciliation Canada is a charitable nonpartisan, community based initiative which was formed as collaboration between Tides Canada Initiatives Society and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society.



EVENT IDEAS:

Here are some ideas to get you started with planning your own community reconciliation event. Of course, these are only some suggestions. The possibilities are endless, so be creative!

Friendly Community Walk

Host a short park/neighbourhood walk to express community support for reconciliation.

Multicultural Fair within your community or organization

Celebrate and showcase the diversity of your community. Invite local multicultural organizations/groups/individuals to participate.

Speakers Series

Invite distinguished speakers, including but not limited to Indian Residential School Survivors, community leaders and dignitaries, to educate your community on reconciliation.

Film Night

Host a film night where individuals gather to watch educational movies or documentaries on the topic of reconciliation.

Community Art Project

Start a collaborative art project in your community to express commitment to reconciliation while building meaningful relationships.

Fundraising Initiative

Organize a fundraising event to help Reconciliation Canada move its initiatives forward. Reconciliation Canada is a charitable project, established as a collaboration between the Indian Residential School Survivor's Society (IRSSS) and Tides Canada Initiatives.

Lunch and Learn

An informal program hosted over the lunch hour, intended to introduce participants to the idea of reconciliation. The casual setting provides an introduction to the urgency of the need for renewed relationships and reconciliation for Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING YOUR EVENT:

- Decide on the scale and scope of your event based on your interests, capacity and resources available
- Take into consideration protocol, prayers, traditional welcome speaker, drumming/singing; request local Indigenous musicians to open and close your event
- Build a volunteer team to support you on implementing your initiative
- Consider multi-cultural vendors to provide food and drink
- Determine any insurance and liability needs
- If necessary, contact your municipality to ensure that you are in compliance with bylaws.
- If necessary, contact local law enforcement, be that City Police, Provincial Police (Ontario and Quebec) or RCMP. Ensure that they are aware of the event to ensure the safety of participants; make emergency response personnel available, including but not limited to Health Support Workers and Emergency Response Workers
- Ensure that your event is easily accessible for elders and those with limited mobility
- If necessary, seek sponsors to provide support to your event
- Create communications materials and a distribution timeline that will ensure enough notice for participants to attend your event
- Ensure that the language, imagery and delivery of your communications materials are culturally sensitive and appropriate.
- Our events and initiatives follow a non-partisan, inclusive, peaceful and collaborative approach and we encourage you to do the same. Please visit our website at www.reconciliationcanada.ca for more information on appropriate language and key messaging

INVITATION LIST:

Wondering who to invite to your event? Here is a sample list to help you get started:

- Chiefs and Council
- Mayors and Council
- MLAs
- MPs
- Residential School Survivors and their Families
- Local First Nation(s)
- Educational Institutions
- Regional School Boards
- Parental Advisory Committees
- Rotary Clubs
- Industry Leaders
- Financial Institutions
- Business and Economic Development
- Aboriginal Organizations
- Aboriginal Friendship Centres
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Multi-cultural Groups
- Media Representatives
- Law Enforcement
- Native Court Worker & Counseling Association Representatives
- Justice Institutions
- Health Authorities
- Health Care Workers
- Treatment & Healing Organizations
- Community Health Representatives
- Child & Family Service Leaders
- Family & Youth Service Leaders
- Unions/BCGEU
- Skills, Employment & Training Organizations
- Housing Service Organizations
- Youth Organizations
- Women's Organization

STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

This guide is intended to provide you with some ideas and inspiration to help you get started on planning your own Community Reconciliation Event. Of course, every event will look different depending on your interests, capacity and resources available. You are the expert in your own community so we leave it to you to make it work best.

Stay tuned for additional resources and materials on planning reconciliation initiatives!

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APPENDIX 1

1.1 Case Study: Walk for Reconciliation 2013 - September 22, 2013 - Vancouver, British Columbia

On September 22, 2013, communities and individuals from across British Columbia proved that 'Namwayut — We Are All One is not just a phrase but a sign of social change. Braving the heavy rain to express the determination in rebuilding the relationships between Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians, the Walk for Reconciliation was attended by 70,000 people, including over 300 teams. Among those in attendance included National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Shawn Atleo, Dr. Bernice King, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, and a delegation of notable government officials and First Nations leaders.

The 4 km walk began at Queen Elizabeth Plaza in Downtown Vancouver with singing, traditional blessing and speeches from Reconciliation Canada partners and supporters, including a speech from keynote speaker Dr. Bernice King. The Walk for Reconciliation was named the #2 Top News Maker of the Year by CBC News Vancouver.