

Backgrounder: Reconciliation Canada



Born from the vision of Chief Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk Elder, Reconciliation Canada is an Indigenous-led charitable organization that acts as a catalyst for positive social change and a leading voice for reconciliation in the country. As a non-partisan organization, Reconciliation Canada mobilizes the growing reconciliation movement by building national awareness, inspiring meaningful dialogue and facilitating transformative experiences that revitalize relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

Reconciliation Canada is continuously advancing the reconciliation movement with its national initiatives, notably by hosting the Walk for Reconciliation in partnership with the City of Vancouver on September 24th, 2017. In 2013, Reconciliation Canada hosted the first Walk for Reconciliation of its kind, which brought 70,000 people together in the Vancouver area. Past initiatives include: co-hosting events to coincide with the closing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in 2015, including the Walk for Reconciliation in Ottawa that brought 10,000 individuals together, and bringing together leaders in six National Reconciliation Gatherings across the country.

The Walk for Reconciliation in 2017 is part of Reconciliation Canada's *Reconciliation in Action: A National Engagement Strategy* is a *Canada 150 Signature Project*, a two-year initiative with the goal of examining and documenting perceptions, actions and aspirations of Canadians in relation to reconciliation. This narrative acknowledges our common history, highlights current achievements and creates a vision for the future. This project includes several initiatives implemented across Canada including:

- The Walk for Reconciliation
- National Reconciliation Gatherings
- National Narrative on Reconciliation Online Engagement
- In the Spirit of Reconciliation: An Intergeneration Gathering
- National Narrative Report on Reconciliation
- National Thought Table on Reconciliation

Reconciliation Canada's core activities also include Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops and Speaking Engagements. These workshops and engagements bring community leaders together 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 action plans. Additionally, Reconciliation Canada's speaking engagements and interactive outreach activities promote an understanding of shared histories and building a new way forward. Other initiatives have included work in the areas of reconciliation leadership and economic reconciliation.

Reconciliation Canada continues to build and maintain a national dialogue on reconciliation and to catalyze action with the vision of achieving a vibrant Canada and shared prosperity for all peoples.

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