2-YEAR IMPACT REPORT
2013–2014
‘NAMWAYUT WE ARE ALL ONE
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Chief Dr. Robert Joseph

The desire for reconciliation resonates strongly with many Canadians as discovered by Reconciliation Canada during its first two years of operation.

A fast growing number of Canadians of every stripe is desirous of “finding a new way forward” through deeper dialogue, understanding and renewing of relationships.

It is true that we began with the crippling legacy of Indian Residential Schools and learning about the devastating intergenerational impacts stemming from that experience. Nonetheless, we as Canadians have been challenged to reflect deeply about how we treat each other and to seek reconciliation where needed.
Through multiple levels of dialogues with our citizens, every ethnicity, every race, every creed we are beginning to recognize our common humanity.

There was the tumultuous 70,000-person Walk for Reconciliation that took the City of Vancouver literally by storm. A torrential downpour the likes of which is seldom seen in these parts only heightened the resolve and inspiration that is now slowly spreading across this nation.

There was the garnering of deep inspirational wisdom from the gathering of Elders from all of our ancient cultures that convinced us that Reconciliation was and is a spiritual life-way that we need to get back to.

In the calling together of our ethnicities we learned how to celebrate and honour our diversity.

Reconciliation Week in Vancouver was extraordinary.

In the lead up to that week and up to now, the support for Reconciliation has been tsunami-like.

Governments, churches and faith-based groups, politicians, CEOs of companies of every size, service clerks and financial institutions the likes of Vancity Credit Union have given hope that we can create a new reality for ourselves based on human dignity and equality for all.

The City of Vancouver has been stalwart in its support for reconciliation. It has declared itself a City of Reconciliation and drawn municipalities across the country in forming this monumental journey of reconciliation.

Reconciliation Canada acknowledges the many ongoing reconciliation efforts being made across the country. It is proof positive that we are on the right track.

On a very personal level I am very encouraged by what I see. Aboriginal peoples are resilient and strong. Canadians are caring and courageous. There is an emerging desire and will to accommodate reconciliation among us all.

Political and legal agreements are not the only ways that contribute to reconciliation although they are important. What I desire more than anything else is the creation of a new covenant between us that is spiritual and transformative and not easily broken.

I am now an Elder who has experienced the despair and brokeness wreaked by colonization and the consequence of Residential Schools. But I now live with hope and inspiration because I see the potential for a new and different kind of Canada.

Justice, equality, inclusivity, dignity and mutual respect are now imaginable. Freedom for all reigns just around the corner.

Let us all commit ourselves to Reconciliation.

“Let us find a way to belong to this time and place together. Our future, and the well-being of all our children, rests with the kind of relationships we build today.” — Chief Joseph
OUR VISION
A vibrant, inclusive Canada where all peoples achieve their full potential and shared prosperity.

OUR PURPOSE
Reconciliation Canada is an Aboriginal-led initiative building meaningful relationships through transformative experiences.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

KAREN JOSEPH

Reconciliation Canada, an Aboriginal-led charitable project, began in September 2012 with a bold vision to promote reconciliation by engaging Canadians in dialogue that revitalizes the relationships between Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians in order to build vibrant, resilient and sustainable communities. A vision based on a dream held by Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Reconciliation Canada’s Ambassador, to witness tens of thousands of people of every culture and faith walking together for a shared tomorrow.

So began Reconciliation Canada’s journey to engage British Columbians in reconciliation through community initiatives and events that not only uphold and advance the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (“TRC”) but also demonstrate the mass support for finding a new way forward in our relationships together.

In November 2012, Reconciliation Canada hosted its very first workshop – a gathering of multi-cultural Elders – to set the foundation for its work moving forward. For two days, Elders from Aboriginal and other ancient histories gathered to explore how reconciliation, as a way of being, can help our society move forward.

Through the development of meaningful partnerships and community outreach programs, Reconciliation Canada hosted a series of Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops across the province and three major events during Reconciliation Week in September 2013, including the Walk for Reconciliation engaging 70,000 people in Downtown Vancouver.

As the demand for reconciliation action began to spread across the country, Reconciliation Canada began to plan workshops and outreach initiatives not only in British Columbia, but across the country, including Alberta, the Yukon and Ottawa.

In just a couple of short years, the growing commitment to reconciliation has been evident as seen in these milestones:

- The City of Vancouver unanimously passed a motion to proclaim a Year of Reconciliation from June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014.
- 70,000 people braved the pouring rain in Downtown Vancouver to join the Walk for Reconciliation on September 22, 2013.
- The B.C. School Trustees Association passed a motion on residential schools as a required high school course in April 2014.
- The City of Vancouver unanimously passed a motion to support a City of Reconciliation Framework on October 28, 2014.
- The Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh First Nations hosted a Brushing Off Ceremony for the City of Vancouver’s Mayor and Council to prepare them for their new term on December 16, 2014.
- Several cities have declared their commitment to reconciliation, including: Calgary, Campbell River, Cranbrook, Edmonton, Port Alberni, and Toronto.

Reconciliation is a collective journey and will take the efforts of all peoples. Starting at the individual level, each person can play a part in creating something that is collectively significant, inspiring and long-lasting. In this report, you will find several stories of individuals and organizations who have exemplified this. These individuals and organizations have created significant impact through their commitment to reconciliation — a commitment that has spread into many areas of their lives and communities causing positive and sustainable change.
ELDER’S VISION STATEMENT

A Shared Tomorrow.

We are Elders from Aboriginal and other ancient histories who care about Canadians and answered a call to action in November 2012. For two days, we gathered on the traditional territories of the Musqueam People to explore how Reconciliation, as a way of being, can help our society move forward. To that end we have made a video to explain who we are and invite you to join us on this path. Our purpose is to speak some truths about the trauma of Indian Residential Schools and other atrocities that have been imposed upon humans around the world. As Canadians, we share a responsibility to look after each other and acknowledge the pain and suffering that our diverse societies have endured – a pain that has been handed down to the next generations. We need to right those wrongs, heal together, and create a new future that honours the unique gifts of our children and grandchildren.

How do we do this? Through sharing our personal stories, legends and traditional teachings, we found that we are interconnected through the same mind and spirit. Our traditional teachings speak to acts such as holding one another up, walking together, balance, healing, and unity. Our stories show how these teachings can heal their pain and restore dignity. We discovered that in all of our cultural traditions there are teachings about reconciliation, forgiveness, unity, healing and balance. We invite you to search in your own traditions and beliefs, and those of your ancestors, to find these core values that create a peaceful harmonious society and a healthy earth. With those ways of being in mind, join us in facing the challenge of healing Canada of its painful past so we can leave a better future for our children. With those ancient ways in our hearts and the future in our minds, let’s hold hands and walk together. In that spirit, we invite you to join in Reconciliation Canada’s initiatives.

Signed,

Larry Grant, Musqueam Elder

Ashok Mathur, South Asian artist, writer, and cultural organizer; Director of the Centre for innovation in Culture and the Arts in Canada (CiCAC), Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC

Grace Eiko Thomson, Japanese Canadian Historian and Curator; Former President, National Association of Japanese Canadians

Winnie L. Cheung, Director & Past President of the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS)

Farid Rohani, Bahá’í; Chair of the Board, Northern Institute

Andy Yellowback, Cree Elder, Northern Manitoba

Bessie Yellowback, BSW, RSW; Gitxsan First Nation, Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society, Resource Social Worker

Robbie Waisman, Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society For Education and Remembrance

Louise Rolston, Member of the United Church of Canada; Former Chancellor of Vancouver School of Theology

Dr. Marie Anderson, BSW, MSW, PhD. Cooks Ferry Band, Nlakapmux Tribe; CEO Heywaynoqu Healing Circle For Addiction Society and Co-Developer and Sessional Instructor Chemical Addictions Program, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Yvonne Rigsby-Jones, Snuneymuxw First Nation; Executive Director, Tsow-Tun Le Lum

Barney Williams, Member of The Indian Residential School Survivors Committee for Truth and Reconciliation

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk Elder; Ambassador, Reconciliation Canada; Indian Residential Schools Survivor Society

William A. White, BA History and Anthropology; Coast Salish Elder, Tsowtunlelum Elder in Residence/Cultural Resource Worker; Principal Researcher Kwam Kwum Sulitst HIV/AIDS Project Cowichan Tribes

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For Robbie Waisman, reconciliation has been a story of resilience and education.

Born to a Jewish family in Poland, Waisman is a Holocaust survivor who was sent to the Buchanwald Concentration Camp as a teenager during the Second World War.

Following liberation, Waisman immigrated to Canada.

Waisman recognized that as a Holocaust survivor, he had a duty to educate the world of what happened during the Holocaust and to help bring healing to those who have suffered. This journey to bring positive change has taken him to high schools across Canada and around the world where he has delivered presentations to thousands of students, detailing his own story, as well as the stories of his family and the other internees at the Buchanwald Concentration Camp.

“Six million Jewish people were murdered by the Nazis of which one and a half million were children. I am one of seven percent that survived. I have no words to describe how honoured I am to do this on behalf of the one and a half million dead that are not able to do what I can.”

Moved by stories of the trauma caused by Indian Residential Schools, Waisman was compelled to do what he could to help bring reconciliation and healing. In 2008, he was invited to speak and to share his story at the Journey to Truth and Reconciliation conference in Fort Providence, Northwest Territories, hosted by the Dene Nation. After speaking of his own experiences and helping to reassure many that they are not alone, several residential school survivors, for the very first time, began to share their own stories.

“I think any of us in our community who is in a position to bring healing and reconciliation has a sacred duty to do whatever they can.”

Through his commitment to educating students on the dangers of hatred and intolerance, Waisman was amongst the first to be inducted as an Honorary Witness to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the TRC Northern National Event in Inuvik in June 2011. The following year, Waisman took part in the gathering of multi-cultural elders from ancient histories that met to provide a foundation for reconciliation moving forward.

To Waisman, being compassionate towards those who have suffered and helping others understand this trauma are amongst the most important ways we can move towards reconciliation.

“I think any of us in our community who is in a position to bring healing and reconciliation has a sacred duty to do whatever they can.”
RECONCILIATION WEEK

The week of September 16 to 22, 2013 is one that will be carved in our memories forever as a historically momentous and meaningful time that brought great hope. Reconciliation Canada hosted three major events to help advance the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and support their National Event that was held in Vancouver the same week.

The week began with a sacred fire at Ambleside Beach on Squamish Nation lands to symbolize the commencement of Reconciliation Week. The next day, thousands lined the Seawall along False Creek to witness the All Nations Canoe Gathering. This event brought out traditional canoes, dragon boats, and other vessels – including paddlers from Australia and Guatemala – on a journey together. Leaders from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations greeted the canoe families and granted permission to step forward on Coast Salish lands. Many of the paddlers were former students of the Indian residential schools or inter-generational Survivors; some of whom shared their story, revealing their pain and resilience during the formal address, deeply touching many of those who stood witness.

Following the TRC’s National Event held at the Pacific National Exhibition (September 18–21), Reconciliation Week culminated with the Walk for Reconciliation: A New Way Forward. This event, held on September 22nd, began with a ceremonial program and keynote address from Dr. Bernice King in downtown Vancouver. Although torrential rain fell that day, it did not dampen the commitment of thousands of people from all cultures and faiths who came to honour Survivors and walk together in commitment to reconciliation. A colourful sea of umbrellas, under which a new community comprising members of the general public, businesses, faith-based organizations, political bodies, families and friends – Aboriginal and other Canadians – stood together as one. The day was filled with tremendous emotion and saw people with smiles and tears walk arm-in-arm, supporting and energizing one another with their diverse strengths in the belief of a new way forward.

This week left a lasting impact on many. It provided the opportunity to express words never spoken, heal wounds, gain closure, and engage thousands of Canadians in the process of reconciliation.
For Lillian Howard, reconciliation has both a personal and professional meaning. As a residential school survivor and Co-Chair of the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee (UAPAC), for Howard, reconciliation has been a long journey.

When Chief Robert Joseph presented the idea of Reconciliation Week to UAPAC, Howard became very involved. A resolution was tabled, with the help of Councillor Andrea Reimer, to extend the City of Vancouver’s Reconciliation Week to the Year of Reconciliation. It also sought to officially name Vancouver as the City of Reconciliation and acknowledge the rights of indigenous peoples in the United Nations declaration.

To their delight, Vancouver City Council passed the resolution unanimously.

“There has been a lot of relationship building between City Hall, local first nations and different organizations,” says Howard. “We were ready for Reconciliation Week, but had no idea what to expect.”

Howard was among Indigenous and community leaders who produced 13 doable items and 25 recommendations at the Reconciliation Summit, which initiated Vancouver’s Year of Reconciliation.

One of the first events of Reconciliation Week, the All Nations Canoe Gathering was particularly memorable for Howard. Canoe gatherings play an important role in Aboriginal communities as healing journeys, to which Howard can attest.

“For the first time I felt like we were formally welcomed by the local first nations,” says Howard. “I feel like I can live here now with dignity and pride.”

The events helped her realize that reconciliation has to take place not just at a personal level, but a societal level—and it was the Walk for Reconciliation which demonstrated reconciliation’s positive societal impact.

After Reconciliation Week’s success, Howard partnered with several Vancouver community centres to share her residential school experience. Over several months, she was involved in teaching participants 10 reconciliation songs and created a button blanket project, which were shared—with great success—on June 21, 2014, National Aboriginal Day.
Reconciliation Week 2013 culminated on September 22nd, 2013 as 70,000 people took to the streets of Downtown Vancouver for the Walk for Reconciliation. Over 360 Walk Teams were registered for the walk.

On September 17th, 2013, the All Nations Canoe Gathering, consisting of 60 traditional canoes, dragon boats and other vessels, welcomed participants to Coast Salish lands.

Over 450 + 6,200 volunteers collectively contributed to the success of Reconciliation Week 2013.
Linda Morris met the founders of Reconciliation Canada when they were just starting the initiative.

Inspired by this first conversation, Linda and her team became instrumental in making Vancity a founding partner of Reconciliation Canada. When the financial institution announced its $750,000 contribution, Morris describes their social media as “humming” with great positive comments and feedback.

Vancity’s willingness to take the big first step helped propel Reconciliation Canada’s story. Additionally, Vancity’s role in taking part and leading reconciliation initiatives has enabled its staff and members to learn more about the impacts of residential schools and to participate in reconciliation actions. It has propelled the organization to work more closely with Indigenous communities locally to advance their economic inclusion and development. This stronger connection with Aboriginal peoples is having a positive impact in Vancity’s recruitment processes, as well as in the way the organization develops projects and evaluates lending opportunities.

On a personal level, last year’s Walk for Reconciliation was a key moment for Morris: “People really wanted to take a stand by literally stepping out in the rain.” Morris hopes that one day, we will all be walking in Ottawa and talking about reconciliation as a nation.

“People say it’s hard to make a change. Yes, it is hard to do things that are very challenging, but from our chance meeting, an incredible series of events grew and more to come. I hope it inspires people to think big and not be limited. You have to be thinking: what’s my wildest idea? What could I accomplish? Don’t settle for second best but really push hard. And don’t be afraid to invite others to join you. You never know when you knock on a door what connection can lead to another connection. So don’t think small, think big and who knows what might be possible.”

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TILES PROJECT

Prior to the Walk for Reconciliation, Reconciliation Canada reached out to schools, community centres and libraries to engage school-aged children with the Tiles Project.

The Tiles Project introduced children, in a very gentle way, to the history of residential schools through a facilitated discussion, which touched on the concept of “Namwayut”—“we are all one”, as well as present day relationships among Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians.

The children were encouraged to decorate a tile to reflect upon what they have learned and to demonstrate their feelings of peace and empathy for those who have been hurt in the past as well as their hope for the future.

In total, 42,000 tiles were decorated and presented as gifts for those who participated in the Walk for Reconciliation. By receiving this gift, participants carried forward the message of Reconciliation into their lives and their communities. This gifting is consistent with the custom in certain First Nations cultures to share a gift with witnesses to an important ceremony.

We have much gratitude to extend to so many people who have embraced our vision of Reconciliation and of ‘Namwayut with the Tiles Project. School boards, libraries, recreation centres, summer programs and faith-based organizations were all key champions of the cause and offered in-kind support to make this program a success.

A special thank you to Annick Press who supplied the picture book.
Norgate Community School, also called Xwemelch’stn in the Squamish language, is located on the traditional, unceded territory of the Squamish Nation. The staff recognize and gratefully acknowledge the fundamental relationship that they share with the Squamish Nation to help with reconciliation for all students.

Norgate Community School has reconciliation actions woven into its academic culture and educational activities. Squamish Elders perform ceremonies throughout the year, parents come to teach traditional songs and even a canoe has been carved in the school to teach the children how their multicultural group needs to paddle together to go forward. During Reconciliation Week 2013, students decorated tiles that were presented as gifts for participants in the Walk for Reconciliation and a team of staff members took part in the Walk.

Principal Lisa Upton believes reconciliation is a shared story; it is about all of us. We have to know and understand our past to move forward. For Upton, anytime there is racism, discrimination or hatred that is a time for all of us to stand up and make a difference. As a Canadian of Ukrainian descent, Upton’s family has also suffered from the wars in Europe and the internment camps in Canada. When Elders and community members thank her for the reconciliation work she does in the school she responds, “I do this for my grandparents as much as I do it for your grandparents because all of our kids are going to learn from this.”

Upton believes that schools are essential in developing a sense of shared humanity and reconciliation is deep, meaningful work that every school can do in its own way. Upton says “It’s not about tolerance of other people; we need to care about each other.”
Volunteers are Reconciliation Canada’s most valuable resource and are an integral part of the team. Volunteers have contributed to Reconciliation Canada’s initiatives at all levels from high-level operational support to event-day roles.

To date, over 460 volunteers have taken on a diverse range of roles including Volunteer Coordinators, Social Media Managers, Site Managers for the Walk for Reconciliation, Graphic Designers, Web Developers, Creative Writers and Public Outreach Representatives.

Focusing our recruitment efforts on partnering corporations, cultural and faith groups, and community organizations, we have been fortunate enough to engage volunteers from organizations including Vancity Credit Union, the City of Vancouver, BC Hydro, Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada.

The Volunteer Engagement program was built based on international best practices as well as Reconciliation Canada values and principles. Volunteer Survey results from October 2013 show that the overall volunteer experience was meaningful, rewarding, inspiring and educational.

“People from all faiths volunteered and when I saw walkers traverse the bridge it dawned on me what a movement and piece of history I was part of. And I am proud of it.”
— Walk for Reconciliation Volunteer.
While conducting research for a school project, 11-year-old Zachary Mullin had the opportunity to meet both Chief Robert Joseph and Robbie Waisman, a Holocaust survivor. He found both their characters and approach to reconciliation particularly inspiring.

“Chief Robert was a really warm, inspirational character. I asked him if there was anything that I could do to get involved with Reconciliation Canada,” says Mullin. “He said the best things I could do were to volunteer and spread awareness.”

Mullin took the advice to heart, and attended a reconciliation event over the summer, volunteering with Reconciliation Canada’s Tiles Project.

“I think the biggest thing that I learned from doing this project is that it doesn’t matter how many things you go through in life, you can still be a great person” he says.

Mullin’s project taught him a great deal about the importance of sharing stories and experiences for reconciliation. “Reconciliation means to me you have to recognize and listen to the survivors of events and hear their stories,” he says. “You need to spread awareness and make sure that everyone knows about it. Then you need to fix the problem and make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

“Learning about Reconciliation Canada, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have definitely changed the way I think every day,” he says. “It’s so important that we all care for each other. Just doing this project has amplified that feeling by like, times ten.”

Although Mullin has completed his project—and earned an excellent grade—his work with reconciliation is far from finished.

“I plan to keep on volunteering and spreading awareness because I think that it’s really important for people my age to learn about things like [reconciliation].” He says. “We are the next generation and it’s really up to us.”
Our first Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop took place in November 2012. The workshop, titled The Language of Reconciliation, brought together Elders from a variety of cultures and backgrounds to discuss what ‘reconciliation’ means to each respective culture and to explore how reconciliation, as a way of being, can help our society move forward. The outcomes of this initial Elders Gathering formed what would come to be the Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop process.

Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops are based on the goal of providing experiential learning that leads to transformative change. The process combines intellectual understanding and emotional learning to provide a means for concrete action towards reconciliation. The workshops provide an opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue through the sharing of stories of resilience, and build relationships based on a foundation of openness, dignity, understanding and hope.

The workshops have been hosted in a number of formats to best suit the community in which they are based. We have hosted two-day, one-day and half-day Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops, one-hour “Lunch and Learn” workshops, and interactive presentations, as well as Leadership Training programs and workshops for young adults.

Feedback from participants has shown that many gained a more robust understanding of our shared Canadian history, and have experienced major shifts in perspective on how to build better, more meaningful relationships in their personal, social and work lives.
TARA NEY

Tara attended a Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop in Victoria in January 2014. Inspired to take action at the end of this workshop, Tara committed to advancing Aboriginal art as a pillar of reconciliation in her community of Oak Bay in Victoria, BC. She contacted resourceful artists, donors, politicians and educators. In a short time, together they were able to appoint an arts laureate and showcase Aboriginal art on the waterfront. This group is now working to place a welcome pole at their new high school.

The other action that Tara committed to at the Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop was to ensure that every school child learns about residential schools as a part of their core curriculum. Tara sent Peg Orcherton, the Chair of the Greater Victoria School Board, the excellent curriculum used in the Northwest Territories to teach high school students about the continuing impacts of residential schools. This initiative strengthened the school board’s action plans to further develop its Aboriginal education content. By April 2014, school trustee and long-time advocate of this issue, Edith Loring-Kuhanga’s motion on residential schools as a required high school course was approved by the B.C. School Trustees Association.

Tara believes it is crucial that Canadians learn early on about residential schools and other policies that have shaped Indigenous experiences. She describes it as a social justice issue: “We have had graduate students come to our Public Administration program that don’t know anything about residential schools. Some of these students are going to work in government and will be making decisions without fully understanding the issues.”

Each reconciliation action matters. When “you just keep working towards what you believe in, little things can become big things so quickly. If you ever feel that something is too little to be bothered with, just do it!”
Reconciliation Canada conducted a total of 22 Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops and 3 Young Adult Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops.

In 2014 we conducted a total of 21 Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops and 5 Young Adult Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops.

Through Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops, Lunch and Learn Sessions, interactive presentations, panel discussions, and Young Adult Leadership and Facilitation Training Sessions, we have engaged more than 1,900 individuals.

Overall, we have engaged more than 1,303 Community Leaders and 283 Young Adult Leaders have actively participated in our programs throughout 2013 and 2014.

We have delivered Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop programs across British Columbia, Alberta and Yukon, where we have visited communities in:

- Vancouver
- North Vancouver
- Victoria
- Port Alberni
- Campbell River
- Cranbrook
- Calgary
- Fort McMurray
- Whitehorse

We are inspired as cities across Canada have declared their commitment to reconciliation. These cities include:

- Calgary
- Campbell River
- Cranbrook
- Edmonton
- Port Alberni
- Toronto
- Vancouver

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Andrea Reimer has been a catalyst in the historical initiatives and actions that the City of Vancouver has undertaken to advance Reconciliation.

The City of Vancouver was the first municipality in Canada to proclaim a “Year of Reconciliation” that began on National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2013. This proclamation acknowledges the harms that were done to Aboriginal peoples, including the residential school system, and created a space for meaningful reconciliation gatherings, apologies, dialogues, public education and artistic initiatives to take place.

Andrea recalls a very emotional moment at a community reconciliation event where a young Aboriginal woman gave her a hug after the event and said: “I never knew I mattered to the City of Vancouver”. Andrea says this was one of those moments where she felt the world shifting: “For a thirteen or fourteen year old to know that she really matters is so important. She will go on to be a strong leader in her community, in my community, and she will inspire other strong leaders. That is the change that matters.”

Since the Year of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver has formally acknowledged that the city exists on the unceded traditional territory of the three Host First Nations: the Musqueam, the Squamish and the Tsleil-Waututh nations. Additionally, Mayor and Council have approved the concept of designating Vancouver as a City of Reconciliation.

Andrea believes that Vancouver can play a leadership role in supporting other municipalities that are ready to embrace reconciliation: “You cannot legislate for someone to reconcile but you can create that space for reconciliation to happen so that we get to the place we need to be together.”
PARTNERSHIPS

Reconciliation Canada is deeply honoured by the generosity of our donors and partners. Our achievements would not have been possible without the support of our incredible partners. Hundreds of organizations and individuals gave their time, resources and ongoing support to ensure that reconciliation is part of Canada’s new way forward.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

THANK YOU

We are proud to recognize the investment of these outstanding philanthropic leaders over the past two years. Each one of these partners has exemplified the Aboriginal concept of ‘Namwayut: We are all one.

From the Board and staff of Reconciliation Canada, and the thousands of lives impacted by your investment in reconciliation, we say: Thank you. Huy chexw.

2013 Donors ($5,000 and above)

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- BC Hydro
- Bell Canada
- Bull, Houser and Tupper LLP
- City of Vancouver
- Fortis BC
- Fulton and Company LLP
- Inspirit Foundation
- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- Paterson Law Office
- Port Metro Vancouver
- Province of British Columbia
- RBC Foundation
- Teck Resources
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada

2014 Donors ($5,000 and above)

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- Union Gospel Mission Foundation
- Vancity Community Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- Vancouver International Airport Authority

- BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
- Central Okanagan Foundation
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- North Growth Foundation
- Suncor Energy Foundation
- Vancity Community Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation

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In June 2014, Arlene Strom participated in a community Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Arlene’s commitment at the end of the workshop was to share her insights with her colleagues at Suncor and with people in her community.

Arlene is also part of an internal team that works to ensure that Suncor’s commitments with Aboriginal communities are upheld. She shared her experience of the Dialogue Workshop with this group of leaders, many of whom then participated in Suncor’s own Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop for staff members in September 2014.

As Canada’s largest energy corporation, with operations in the oil sands sector in Northern Alberta and across the country, Suncor’s activities impact 150 aboriginal communities.

Supporting the work of Reconciliation Canada is one way of building “stronger partnerships, deepening our relationships and furthering our understanding in order to have more respectful relationships”. It is in this context that the Suncor Energy Foundation is a current partner of Reconciliation Canada.

For Arlene, “reconciliation is a deeper partnership in which Indigenous people and communities are full participants in decision making and benefit from Canada as much as everyone that lives here.”

Arlene hopes that the reconciliation actions that she and her colleagues are undertaking will spark an interest in others to develop an increasingly meaningful and constructive partnership with Canada’s Indigenous people.
VISIONS FOR RECONCILIATION

In September 2014, we initiated Reconciliation begins with me, a celebration of a year of leadership and action following Reconciliation Week 2013. The initiative featured stories of individuals who have taken significant steps towards building more resilient and sustainable communities, a set of resources to help individuals take action on reconciliation in their communities and an infographic that celebrated Reconciliation Canada’s successes and milestones.

We continue to be inspired by those in our communities and the way they incorporate reconciliation into their lives. As part of the celebration, we reached out to individuals to share their Vision for Reconciliation through our website.

We shared just some of these visions across our social media channels and on our website so that they could continue to inspire others. To learn more on this initiative, visit: www.reconciliationcanada.ca/reconciliation-begins-with-me

SELECTED VISIONS

“My vision for reconciliation is a country where we are able to function like a community where nobody is discriminated against, no matter what their background. We need a community where our thoughts, opinions and stories are able to freely be shared to create a more cohesive environment.”

—Jesse

“I foresee a village in the city made out of log cabins which would be dedicated to the Reconciliation Walk. This village would be set up next to a large lake so pristine and crystal clear. There will be totem poles and a place similar to the log cabins in Coombs in Parksville BC.

We can now remember our ancestors who suffered such ordeal of the Residential Schools and start our healing here.”

—Buster “Cat Thunder” Wilson

“I see people with family trees reaching deep into this land and those with roots in countries around the world sharing a deep commitment to unity. A united people that embrace and celebrate, not just tolerates their diversity. United in their respective walking upon this earth, honouring the life that the earth gives, humble before its humility and strength and fearful of the power they have to spoil the water, air and land.”

—Ahda

“History should not simply be taught as something that has passed; its effects on today’s generations and the relationship between people should be discussed, understood, and reflected on. Only then can truly strong relationships and equality be achieved.”

—Kim
TAKE ACTION

Reconciliation is an ongoing journey and it will take a collective effort to build a new way forward. We invite you to contribute to this important conversation. Here are some ways to support the work of Reconciliation Canada.

DONATE

Reconciliation Canada is a charitable nonpartisan, community based initiative which was formed as a collaboration between Tides Canada Initiatives (TCI) Society and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS). Help move our initiatives forward by making a philanthropic contribution.

To donate, please visit: www.reconciliationcanada.ca/participate/donate/

VOLUNTEER

Join the Reconciliation Canada team! Reconciliation Canada is calling on volunteers who are willing to donate their time and energy to help build stronger relationships among Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians and build a stronger Canada for all.

To learn more about volunteering with Reconciliation Canada, please visit: www.reconciliationcanada.ca/participate/volunteer/

TAKE ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

We have developed the Community Action Toolkit, a set of resources and ideas on how to start the reconciliation conversation within your own circles of influence. The toolkit includes a Kitchen Table Dialogue Guide, a call-to-action for post-secondary students, a guide for senior high school students, and ideas and tips for how to plan your own reconciliation event.

To view the Community Action Toolkit, please visit: www.reconciliationcanada.ca/reconciliation-begins-with-me/participate/

NOW IS THE TIME. TAKE ACTION!
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70,000 people walk across the Georgia Street Viaduct during the Walk for Reconciliation in Vancouver, September 2013.