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**ENHANCING YOUR  
PERSONAL  
RECONCILIATION  
JOURNEY**

**LEARNING  
RESOURCES**

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# INTRODUCTION

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada was established to address the historical and ongoing impact of the Canadian residential school system on Indigenous peoples. Its mandate and purpose are as follows:

**Mandate and Historical Context:** The TRC was established in 2008 as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its primary mandate was to create a safe and culturally respectful space for survivors of the residential school system to share their stories and experiences. The residential school system, which operated for over a century, forcibly separated Indigenous children from their families, suppressed their cultures, and subjected them to abuse and neglect. The TRC aimed to shed light on this dark chapter of Canadian history, promote healing and reconciliation, and ensure that the truth of what happened was documented and acknowledged.

**Purpose and Objectives:** The TRC's purpose was multifaceted. It sought to provide a platform for survivors to speak about their experiences and seek closure, while also raising awareness about the damaging legacy of the residential schools among all Canadians.

Additionally, the TRC aimed to create a historical record of the residential school system's impact, including the intergenerational trauma it caused. The Commission issued a comprehensive report in 2015, which included 94 Calls to Action. These calls addressed various aspects of Canadian society, from education and healthcare to justice and reconciliation, with the goal of dismantling the ongoing systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples and fostering a path toward healing and equity.

**Legacy and Continuing Work:** While the TRC officially concluded its mandate in 2015, its work has had a lasting impact on Canadian society. It continues to serve as a catalyst for discussions about Indigenous rights, reconciliation, and the need for systemic change. The Calls to Action issued by the TRC provide a roadmap for government institutions, organizations, and individuals to address the legacy of the residential schools and work toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada. The TRC's legacy underscores the ongoing commitment to acknowledging historical injustices, promoting healing, and building a more just and equitable future for Indigenous communities across the country now referred to as Canada.



Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada

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# RECONCILIATION PRINCIPLES

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society
2. First Nation, Inuit, and Métis as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected
3. Reconciliation is a process of healing of relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
4. Reconciliation requires constructive action to address the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Indigenous peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, the administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.
5. Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.
6. All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.
7. The perspectives and understandings of Indigenous Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.
8. Supporting Indigenous peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.
9. Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.
10. Reconciliation requires sustained public education and dialogue, including youth engagement, about the history and legacy of residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal rights, as well as the historical and contemporary contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian society.



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# STRATEGIES FOR YOUR PERSONAL RECONCILIATION JOURNEY

## **Learn the Truth**

- Complex pre-colonial history of Turtle island
- Impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples in the land currently called Canada
- History of your local region and the Nations and communities in your area
- Read the 94 Calls to Action

## **Participate in Reconciliation**

- Attend events
- Support Indigenous business
- Don't make it just one day a year

## **Additional Suggestions from the IW Team:**

- Read an Indigenous author
- Bring Indigenous author stories into your book club
- Volunteer
- Start discussion groups in volunteer associations
- Get involved at work...special committees
- Mentor youth for school
- Mentor youth and adults for career development

