

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Mennonite Heritage Museum acknowledges that September 30, 2021 marks the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and their communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

There were 140 federally run Indian Residential Schools which operated in Canada between 1831 and 1998. The last school closed only 23 years ago. Survivors advocated for recognition and reparations and demanded accountability for the lasting legacy of harms caused. These efforts culminated in:

- the [Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement](#)
- [apologies by the government](#)
- the establishment of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)
- the creation of the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission ran from 2008 to 2015 and provided those directly or indirectly affected by the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools policy with an opportunity to share their stories and experiences. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has become the permanent archive for the statements, documents and other materials the Commission gathered, and its library and collections are the foundation for ongoing learning and research.

The Commission [released its final report](#) detailing 94 calls to action. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a direct response to Call to Action 80, which called for a federal statutory day of commemoration.

To learn more:

This National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, explore the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and stories of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Whether you want to read, listen, watch, or try, start your learning journey today.

<https://nctr.ca/>

<https://legacyofhope.ca/wherearethekids/stories/>

For more information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/culture/canadian-identity-society/indigenous-peoples-cultures.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/culture/history-heritage/indigenous-history.html>

For a Mennonite perspective:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/publications/conrad-grebel-review/issues/winter-2011/exploring-gap-between-mennonite-and-indigenous-neighbors>

<https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/facing-history-courage>

<https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/lamenting-loss-young-indigenous-lives>

https://www.anabaptistwitness.org/journal_entry/unsettling-the-radical-witness-of-peace/