

Decolonizing Pledge for Non-Indigenous Peoples

The following pledge is based on a pledge found at the Whyte Museum in Banff, Alberta based on a pledge written by Abra Brynne for the BC Food System Network Annual Gathering in July of 2016.

In a context in which the prosperity of Canadian society has been built around colonization and Aboriginal, Indigenous, Inuit, and Métis peoples experienced and still experience violence, land theft, racism and genocide, it is important to build just and right relationships with the land, within our communities and between peoples. Therefore, I commit to do my part to begin my own process of decolonization through the following actions:

- ◇ I will learn about the different Indigenous Communities and Histories found in the lands I reside in.
- ◇ I will learn about Treaty 7, including the history of the events leading to Treaty 7 for the Indigenous groups of Southern Alberta
- ◇ I will learn about the Métis people of Region 3 of Southern Alberta
- ◇ I will work to build meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples
- ◇ I will read the Calls To Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Report
- ◇ I will read the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
- ◇ I will read the City of Calgary's White Goose Flying Report
- ◇ I will join in the call for justice for Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women and Girls
- ◇ I will educate myself about the Residential School System and its impact
- ◇ I will learn about the "60's scoop"
- ◇ I will educate myself about the ways in which colonialism is not a thing of the past but very much present and pervasive today and work to change this in the organizations and groups I am a part of
- ◇ I will learn about how Environment Racism has and is still effecting Aboriginal, Indigenous, Inuit, and Métis peoples
- ◇ I will learn what nation-to-nation relationships might look like withing the lands I live on
- ◇ I will read books and articles by Indigenous authors, including local Indigenous authors
- ◇ I will listen to Indigenous music, podcasts, and radio programs
- ◇ I will watch documentaries, movies, theatre and/or television shows created and directed by Indigenous peoples
- ◇ I will attend at least one event organized by Indigenous people in or around Calgary
- ◇ I will donate to one or more Indigenous Organizations
- ◇ I will learn how to say a few words in a local Indigenous language
- ◇ I will volunteer at Indigenous events
- ◇ I am willing to be uncomfortable, since what a truly just and decolonized Canada will look like is not yet known

Finding Support

Our intent is to hold space for care and support. Yet we also know that the emotions and feelings can be triggered by talking about truth, healing and reconciliation. We are trying to listen and be present but we also recognize that there may be a need for someone to talk to or be a listening presence and that the need for this support goes beyond what we can offer today. If this may be the case here are some supports that can be used:

The national Indian Residential School Crisis Line provides support for survivors and those affected. People can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour national crisis line: 1-866-925-4419.

Alberta's helpline operates every day of the week where trained staff provide support, information, and referrals: 1-877-303-2642.

Access information and resources by calling 211 or visiting <https://ab.211.ca/>

Taking Action on Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation

Wear An Orange Shirt Learn more about why wearing an Orange Shirt on September 30 and throughout the year is significant by checking out <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

Purchase your Orange Shirt from an Indigenous artist, an Indigenous owned business, or a business connected to the Orange Shirt Society

Read The Calls To Action of Truth And Reconciliation Commission A PDF version of the Calls To Action can be accessed through the following link: https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Read The United Nations *Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* A PDF version of the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* can be accessed through the following link: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

Read The City of Calgary's White Flying Goose Report A PDF version of the report can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.calgary.ca/communities/indigenous/white-goose-flying-report.html>

October 4– Sisters In Spirit Day

October 4 is a day to honour the lives of murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people, support grieving families, and create opportunities to prevent future tragedies.

Attend the Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society's Sisters in Spirit Vigil, at Olympic Park in Calgary. The vigil begins at 10:00 a.m.

Stay Connected to the Steps Grace Presbyterian Church Is Taking On The Path Of Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation

Check out Grace's Website <https://gracechurchcalgary.com/> for more information about what we are doing as a church that values engagement, belonging, community, compassion, and service.

Healing and Reconciliation Work Being Done By The Presbyterian Church in Canada

For more information about the work the Presbyterian Church in Canada is doing around Healing and Reconciliation please check out: <https://presbyterian.ca/healing/>

Check out the Indigenous Ally Toolkit put together by Rev. Tony Snow and volunteers

You can check out the Indigenous Ally Toolkit by using the following link:
<https://chinookwindsregion.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Journey-Towards-Indigenous-Allyship-Toolkit.pdf>

Reading List

Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples From Earliest Times, edited by Olive Dickason and David McNab.

Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life, by James Daschuk.

Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-up Call, by Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald M. Derrickson.

Unsettling the Settler Within: Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada, by Paulette Regan.

These Mountains Are Our Sacred Places: The Story of the Stoney Indians, by Chief John Snow.

Spirit of the Rockies: Reasserting an Indigenous Presence in Banff National Park, by Courtney W. Mason.

The Spirit of the Alberta Indian Treaties, edited by Richard T. Price.

21 Things You may Not Know About the Indian Act: Help Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality, by Bob Joseph.

The Inconvenient Indian, by Thomas King.

Legacy: Trauma, Story, and Indigenous Healing, by Susan Methot.

One Story, One Song by Richard Wagamese.

Braiding Sweet Grass, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization, by Steve Heinrichs and Jonathan Dyck.

Five Little Indians, by Michelle Good.

Indian Horse, by Richard Wagamese.

Black Elk Speaks, by John G. Neihardt.

Ojibway Heritage, by Basil Johnston

Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality, by Bob Joseph.

Our Story: Aboriginal Voices on Canada's Past, by Thomas King, Tantoo Cardinal.

Neither Wolf Nor Dog, by Kent Nerburn.