

# Decolonization Learning Journey

A four-part Learning Journey with Mi'kmaw Elders and knowledge sharers.

## Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia

### Decolonization Learning Journey – Resource document

#### Series 2 - Webinar #5 Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Hosting team:

- Elder Jane Meader, Elder, BACS & Med
- Mary Beth Doucette, Assistant Professor and Purdy Crawford Chair in CBU's Shannon School of Business, Cape Breton University
- Nicole Cammaert, Associate Executive Director, CSCNS

#### Guest speaker:

Senator Dan Christmas

#### Topic:

Residential Schools: Moving Forward

#### Highlights:

- In 2009, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada began a multi-year process to listen to Survivors, communities and others affected by the Residential School system. The resulting collection of statements, documents and other materials now forms the heart of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.<sup>1 2 3 4</sup>
- The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, Dr. Marie Wilson, and Chief Wilton Littlechild were the commissioners who led the TRC.<sup>5 6</sup>
- In a summary report, the commission published 94 Calls to Action urging all levels of government — federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous — to work together to change policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation. The "calls to action" are divided into two parts: legacy (1 to 42) and reconciliation (43 to 94).<sup>7</sup>
- In 2015, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) was established at the University of Manitoba. As the permanent home for all statements, documents, and other

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<sup>1</sup> Read reports issued or created by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: <http://nctr.ca/reports.php>

<sup>2</sup> See the list of Canadian residential schools: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100015606/1100100015611>

<sup>3</sup> Review a selective bibliography of residential schools in Canada from Library and Archive Canada: <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/native-residential/020012-1000-e.html>

<sup>4</sup> A helpful resource for talking/learning about residential schools is through Project of Heart: <http://projectofheart.ca/>

<sup>5</sup> Read more about the commissioners: <http://www.trc.ca/about-us/meet-the-commissioners.html>

<sup>6</sup> Read *They Came for the Children*: [http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/resources\\_2039\\_T&R\\_eng\\_web\[1\].pdf](http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/resources_2039_T&R_eng_web[1].pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Read the 94 Calls to Action: [http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

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materials gathered by the TRC the NCTR ensures that: former students and their families have access to their own history; educators can share the Indian Residential School history with future generations of students; researchers can more deeply explore the Residential School experience; the public can access historical records and other materials to help foster reconciliation and healing; and the history and legacy of the residential school system are never forgotten.<sup>8</sup>

- Orange Shirt Day is held annually on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It opens the door to a global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. It is a day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.<sup>9 10 11</sup>
- What is the Doctrine of Discovery? Papal Bulls of the 15th century gave Christian explorers the right to claim lands they “discovered” and lay claim to those lands for their Christian Monarchs. Any land that was not inhabited by Christians was available to be “discovered”, claimed, and exploited. If the “pagan” inhabitants could be converted, they might be spared. If not, they could be enslaved or killed.<sup>12 13</sup>
- Read Jack Weatherford’s *Indian Givers*:  
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/187629/indian-givers-by-jack-weatherford-author-of-the-bestselling-genghis-khan-and-the-making-of-the-modern-world/>

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<sup>8</sup> Watch the October 7, 2020 webcast from the NCTR about practicing active allyship:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFRR\\_OvixpQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFRR_OvixpQ)

<sup>9</sup> Learn more: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

<sup>10</sup> Watch “Every Child Matters: Truth – Act One” from the NCTR:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFTHHtRy8Do&t=1s>

<sup>11</sup> Watch “Every Child Matters: Reconciliation – Act Two” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbbb5-Xp1Ys>

<sup>12</sup> Read more: <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/>

<sup>13</sup> Watch Steve Newcomb talk about Doctrine of Discovery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NmIjcy7RrA>