

Where do I start?

What's in a name?

Understand the terms

Aboriginal, First Peoples and Indigenous are all-encompassing terms that include three distinct heritages; Inuit, Métis and First Nations.

Inuit are Aboriginal people in Northern Canada, who live in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec, Northern Labrador and increasingly urban centres of Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa and St. John's. The word means "people" in the Inuit language - Inuktitut. The singular of Inuit is Inuk.

Métis are Aboriginal people of mixed First Nation and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis. The Métis have a unique culture that draws on their diverse ancestral origins, such as Scottish, French, Ojibway and Cree.

First Nations are Aboriginal peoples of Canada who are neither Métis nor Inuit. The term has come to replace the outdated term Indian. Currently, there are 617 First Nation communities, which represent 50+ distinct nations or cultural groups and 60+ Aboriginal languages with hundreds of dialects.

Source: adapted from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Sign our statement of Solidarity and Action:

www.statementofsolidarity.com

Find out more:

www.veahavta.org

www.trc.ca

www.reconciliationcanada.ca

"Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem, it is a Canadian problem. It involves all of us"

Justice Murray Sinclair

Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



Ve'ahavta

A Jewish Humanitarian Response to Poverty

This Yom Kippur, let us mark a special time of *teshuvah*.

A Jewish responsibility to reconciliation

June 2, 2015 marked the historic closing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) which was an investigation into the Indian Residential School system. Until 1996, governments of Canada orchestrated the removal of 150,000 Indigenous children from their families and communities in order to be stripped of language, cultural identity and traditions. The TRC and Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin declared this history as one of cultural genocide. The legacy of Residential Schools has perpetuated intergenerational trauma, causing many social, economic, health and education challenges. The TRC's findings call upon all Canadians, including the Jewish community, to play a role in rebuilding relationships in order to realize reconciliation and a just society for all who call Canada home.

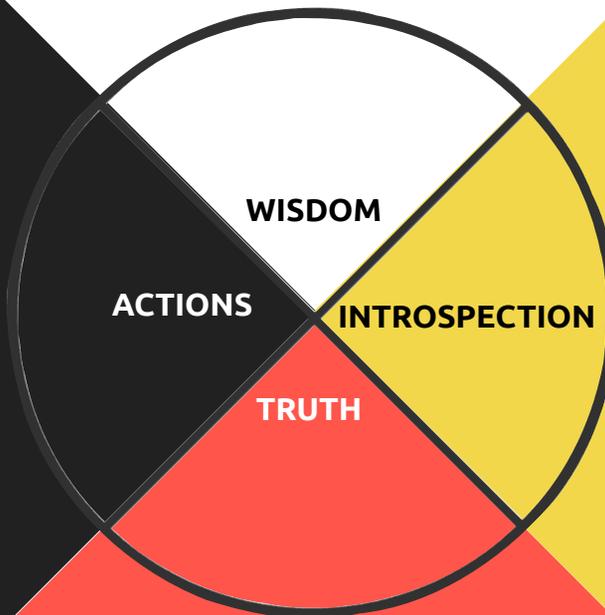
"We must pursue partnerships with Aboriginals in a meaningful way; it must be a genuine partnership that encourages mutual trust. The Jewish community can play a significant role in this issue."

Right Honourable Paul Martin, 21st Prime Minister of Canada
Honourary Co-Chair of Veahavta's Jewish Aboriginal Initiative

Four questions and answers for reconciliation and *teshuvah*

Why Now? Yom Kippur offers us a time for atonement and self-reflection. We use this time to reflect on personal and communal self-improvement, but we cannot stop there! *Teshuvah* must be explored as Jewish members of the Canadian community to ensure a more just nation.

What Next? As we begin to think more seriously about how we can pursue justice, learning more about the injustices done to Canada's First Peoples is a powerful place to start.



Why us? The pursuit of a just society is fundamental and at the heart of Judaism. Jewish values include compassion, sharing, a commitment to *tikun olam* (repairing the world) and working towards justice for all.

Although the Jewish community was not a direct perpetrator in the Residential School system, all Canadians have a responsibility to repair broken relationships.

We have all inherited the legacy of colonization, therefore it will take all Canadians to repair the damage done.

What is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?
The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was the response to the Indian Residential School legacy. The TRC's mandate is to heal and repair broken relationships through education, awareness and increased understanding of the legacy and impacts of the Residential Schools.

Reconciliation means finding the courage to look deep into our past in order to chart a new course for Canada's future. We need to work together to create a future where everyone's freedom and human rights are expressed to the fullest.