



September 27, 2021

Recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Thursday, September 30, marks Canada's first [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#).

Police Victim Services of BC (PVSBC) recognizes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation provides an opportunity to increase awareness of the legacy and impacts of the residential school system. It is a time to advance reconciliation efforts to build a better future for everyone in our communities.

This new federal holiday was established in response to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's \(TRC\) Calls to Action #80](#), to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure the public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools that remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

To redress the legacy of residential schools and advance reconciliation, the TRC called upon all levels of governments, public and private institutions, and all Canadians to take action on the 94 Calls to Action it identified.

The grief, trauma and loss that has been caused by Canada's residential schools and other colonial systems and policies are deeply rooted and continue to have lasting impacts in our communities today.

PVSBC is committed to listening and learning from the voices of residential school survivors and working collaboratively with our Indigenous partners and stakeholders to ensure PVSBC policies, practices and training initiatives are culturally informed and culturally safe.

Principles of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is an ongoing process of healing relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. This process requires public truth sharing, apology and commemoration to acknowledge and redresses past and present harms. Building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities, including Indigenous worldviews in our everyday actions are ways we can commit to this ongoing process.

The TRC believes that in order for Canada to flourish in the twenty-first century, reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canada must be based on the following principles:

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society.
2. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, 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 relationships that require public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
4. Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Aboriginal 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.

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As professionals and leaders in our individual communities, we can recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation through learning more and reflecting on the meaning of this day by attending local

events, reading the Truth and Reconciliation report, speaking and listening to Elders or knowledge keepers, or taking a moment for quiet reflection. Reconciliation is a shared responsibility for all Canadians and requires action not just on this day, but every day.

The [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation \(NCTR\)](#) continues the work initiated by the TRC through serving as the permanent home for all statements, documents and other materials gathered by the TRC. In addition, the NCTR continues to build a foundation for reconciliation by promoting public education and understanding of the Residential Schools and how they are part of a larger history of violent assaults on the distinct cultures and identities of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

The NCTR will be hosting a schedule of daily virtual events throughout Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 27 – October 1). Information on events being offered and registration link can be found at www.nctr.ca/education/trw/

PVSBC is committed to ensuring Residential School survivors and those impacted by the Residential School system have access to culturally safe support and resources. The following are resources available to assist survivors:

- National Indian Residential School Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419 - www.irsss.ca/faqs/how-do-i-reach-the-24-hour-crisis-line
- Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program: 1-877-477-0775 - www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581971225188/1581971250953
- KUU-US Crisis Line Society: 1-800-588-8717 - <https://www.kuu-uscrisisline.com>.
- First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line: 1-855-242-3310 - www.hopeforwellness.ca
- Family Information Liaison Unit: 1-888-355-0064 - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/if-you-are-a-victim-of-a-crime/victim-of-crime/family-information-liaison-unit>
- The Canadian Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls line 1-844-413-6649

Established in 1985, Police Victim Services of British Columbia is a BC registered not-for-profit society, with full registered charity status, dedicated to serving the needs of police-based victim services programs. As the largest police-based victim services association in Canada, PVSBC provides leadership, support, advocacy, and training to professionals working in the field of victim services. PVSBC strives to ensure all victims of crime and trauma across BC receive compassionate, professional and consistent service.

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