



September 30 WALK FOR RECONCILIATION

Rock Your Roots! LESSON PLAN K - 8



Reconciliation Saskatoon would like to invite teachers to engage their students in June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day and Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (and Orange Shirt Day)! Use the activities and tools in this lesson plan for either day. We will launch information about Orange Shirt Day in the fall.

Following is all the information you need to help us make this a meaningful and memorable experience. You can also visit beaconnectr.com/events for updates and information.

INTERESTING FACT:

At the end of 2017, part of Victoria Park was renamed “Reconciliation Circle” to recognize this site as an important location for Truth and Reconciliation in our city. Not only is this the site of National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations and the Walk for Reconciliation. In 2015, this is where the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hosted one of seven national events that marked the release of the TRC’s Final Report, which listed 94 Calls to Action that Canadians need to support to bring about Truth and Reconciliation.

BACKGROUND

The Rock Your Roots: Walk for Reconciliation gathers Indigenous, non-Indigenous and newcomer peoples to demonstrate their commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Participants are invited to “Rock Your Roots” by wearing cultural regalia or carrying signs or flags that celebrate their heritage. The walk is preceded by Indigenous ceremony and led by Residential School Survivors who are honoured through this experience. An international cast of singers, dancers and musicians celebrate the diverse cultures of Saskatoon along the route of the walk.

The Rock Your Roots: Walk for Reconciliation is organized with Knowledge Keepers and Residential School Survivors, who remind us “nothing about us, without us.” Indigenous leadership and values are woven into everything we do.

➤ The Rock Your Roots: Walk for Reconciliation took place from 2016 to 2019, when we gathered 5,000 people on the South Saskatchewan River. It was cancelled in 2020 due to covid. In 2021, participants walked on their own or in small groups according to covid regulations to continue the legacy of honouring survivors and committing to truth and reconciliation.

➤ In 2022, the Walk for Reconciliation was cancelled due to weather, and rescheduled for September 30—the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The event was so powerful and aligned so well with “Orange Shirt Day” that the community decided to keep it permanently on that day.



WATCH ["Building the Rock Your Roots: Walk for Reconciliation"](#)

LESSON FOCUS

What is the Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation and how was it created in response to the Canadian Residential School system? How can students contribute to the process of Truth and Reconciliation?

OUTCOMES

Students will listen to a Residential School Survivor share his story and the history of the Walk for Reconciliation. They will become more familiar with the Residential School System, and consider how they can honour Survivors who are still alive in our community.

OBJECTIVES

Students will participate in activities that recognize Residential School Survivors and invite more students to get involved in reconciliation:

- Activity #1: Create a birthday card for Residential School Survivors. The birthday cards that are created by students will be delivered to Residential School Survivors.
- Activity #2: Learn about the Vision for Reconciliation and have students participate in their own vision for moving forward!



PROCEDURES

1) Introductory Conversation about Residential Schools

- **WATCH** ["Teaching about Residential Schools to children! - YouTube"](#)
- **WATCH** ["Eugene Arcand: The History of Saskatoon's Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation"](#)

2) After the videos have been completed, teacher will discuss "Who are Indigenous peoples of Canada?" This term refers to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people that were in this country long before immigrants from Europe and elsewhere decided to settle.

3) Teacher will lead a discussion about what residential schools were and the age groups of the Indigenous children placed into schools. Many Indian Residential Schools were located far from Indigenous homes and communities, and enrollment was compulsory for Indigenous children. From 1867 to 1996, Indigenous children between the ages of 7 (and even younger) and 15 were taken from their families by the government to attend these schools.

4) Teacher will lead a discussion "Why were residential schools bad for children?" Children did not get the chance to grow up with their parents and some children did not return home after their stay in the school. Also, children in Residential Schools were punished for speaking their languages, and their connection to their families and culture was severed. The schools did not meet the basic needs of the children: for love, healthy food, etc. and they were severely mistreated. They were not held or told they were loved. They never celebrated birthdays and many didn't even know when their birthdays were.

5) The Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation began in 2016 to honour Residential School Survivors. Thousands of people have gathered on the riverbank and "rocked their roots" by wearing their own cultural regalia or holding symbols of their culture. It is an important part of reconciliation to know your own ancestry.

WATCH ["Building the Rock Your Roots: Walk for Reconciliation"](#)

This year, the Rock Your Roots: Walk for Reconciliation will take place on September 30, 2023. More information on the event can be found below.

MATERIALS

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Stationary
- Coloring materials such as markers, crayons, and colored pencils
- Glue
- Stickers
- Rubber stamps

ACTIVITY #1

Birthday Cards (K - 8)

As you heard in the video from Survivor Eugene Arcand, Residential School Survivors never celebrated birthdays. Many times at the Walk for Reconciliation, we had cupcakes and sang happy birthday to the Survivors. This is a way of giving back an experience that they lost, and acknowledging that loss.

Invite the students to make birthday cards or artworks that will be delivered to Residential School Survivors! This invites reflection about the Survivors that are still alive today. Talk about messages that Survivors might want to hear, or ways to let them know they are loved!



Cards can be delivered to:

Reconciliation Saskatoon

214 11th Street E
Saskatoon, SK
S7N 0E6

You can also reach Carrie (Manager, Community Reconciliation) at beaconnectr@gmail.com to arrange for pick up or delivery!

ACTIVITY #2 (Grades 4 - 8)

HOW ARE WE MOVING FORWARD?: Vision for Reconciliation

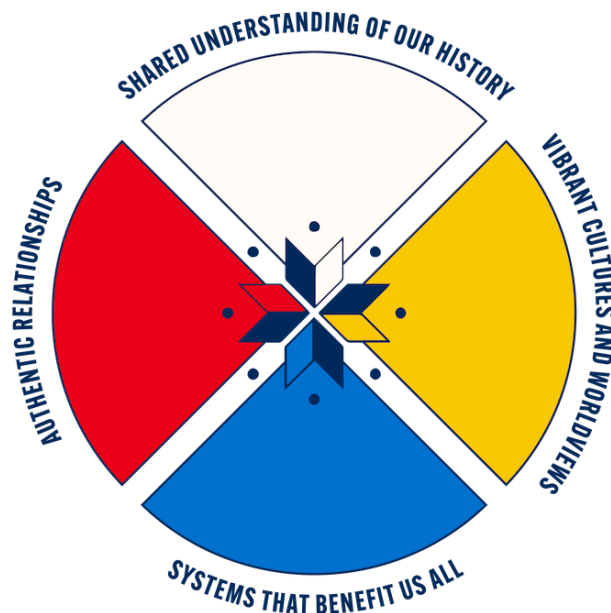
The Office of the Treaty Commissioner has been working with hundreds of partner organizations since 2014 to develop a common Vision for Truth and Reconciliation through Treaty Implementation. In this process, they have asked thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens from Saskatchewan about the reconciliation story they would like to tell in a generation. They believe that if we can come together on a common vision for success, that we can better work together, and determine whether progress is being made. They've told us that it involves four overlapping and continuous areas of work:

Shared Understanding of our History

- We will understand and honour the history of this land, including past and present wrongs
- We will have respectful relationships with our ancestors and with the land
- Individuals, families, communities and nations will be strong and healing

Vibrant Cultures and Worldviews

- Our cultures and languages will be strong; worldviews respected
- Our social experiences will be woven together; we share and learn from each other
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Authentic Relationships

- Strong relationships, partnerships and trust will exist among all people
- We will have greater skills for communicating and managing conflicts

Systems that Benefit Us All

- We will have quality of life for all and systems will reject racism
- We will have representative leadership and workforce
- Treaty promises and Indigenous sovereignty will be honoured

ACTIVITY #2 (Grades 4 - 8)

Invite students to engage with the Vision for Reconciliation. Options include:

- Picture what reconciliation looks like when it has been successful. Can you draw a picture of Truth and Reconciliation?
- Write a paragraph about what Truth and Reconciliation will look like when it has been successful.
- Have a class wide discussion about each area of the Vision for Reconciliation. Is your school responding to any of the areas? Do you have ideas for how your classroom or school or family could respond to each area?

Source for the Vision for Reconciliation: http://www.otc.ca/pages/what_is_reconciliation.html



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@ReconciliationSaskatoon
Email: beaconnectr@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.BeAConnectR.com>

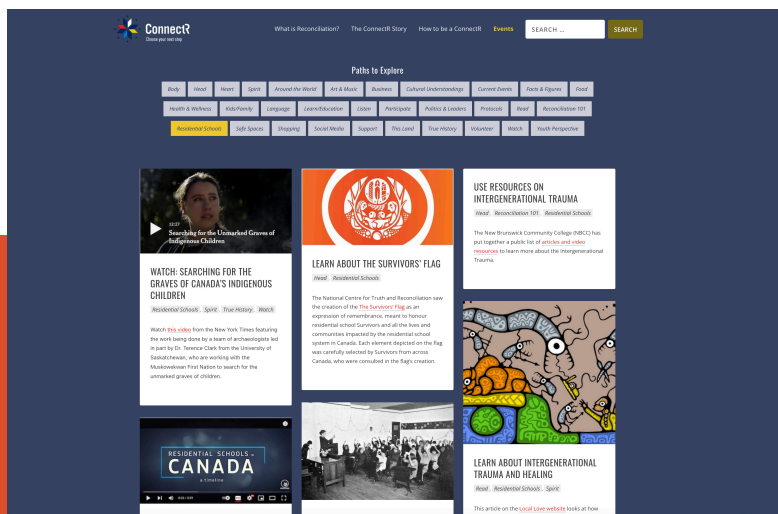
CONCLUSION

Today, residential schools do not exist anymore. The last residential school in Saskatchewan was closed in 1996. However, the children who attended those schools are now grown-up, and many are still dealing with the problems they faced as a child. We call them Survivors.

For these Residential School Survivors, we show them our support by showing up! Come to the Walk for Reconciliation on Sept 30 or National Indigenous Peoples Day events at Victoria Park on June 21.

Many people in our community work hard to heal the damage done by Residential schools and ensure that Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples are equal.

Check out ConnectR, an online project to help people find and respond to Calls to Action and move forward on a path of Truth & Reconciliation: www.BeAConnectR.com



EVENT DETAILS: Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation

The Walk for Reconciliation will begin outside the office of the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc (CUMFI) at 315 Avenue M South. CUMFI hosts a Pancake Breakfast every year for Residential School Survivors, that is free and welcome to all. The Pancake Breakfast starts at 8:00am.

Saturday, Sept 30

- 8am Pancake Breakfast at CUMFI (315 Ave M South)
- 10am Walk for Reconciliation begins
 - Walk ends in Victoria Park
 - Program and kids activities in the park follow
 - Activities include face painting, traditional Indigenous games, craft tent by Remail Modern and more!
- 12pm Event ends

Stay tuned to Reconciliation Saskatoon on Facebook or www.BeAConnectR.com/events for updates closer to September 30!



Reconciliation





WALK FOR RECONCILIATION Saturday, September 30, 2023

- 8:00am** : Pancake Breakfast at **CUMFI** (315 Ave M South)
- 10:00am** : Walk for Reconciliation starts at **CUMFI**
- 10:45am** : Program in Reconciliation Circle, Victoria Park followed by family-friendly activities in the park

Facebook.com/ReconciliationSaskatoon for more details

**THANK YOU TO OUR
COMMUNITY
INVESTORS!**

COMMUNITY INVESTORS

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