

Resources on Indian Residential Schools and Truth and Reconciliation (November 25, 2013):

Videos and Documentaries:

- A 17 minute video by the Mennonite Church as to the importance of attending a TRC hearing www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2103
- A 5 minute video by the Mennonite Church as to what are the key elements at a TRC hearing: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nok42-LshdQ&list=PLUK6wT1q9mh54iCbK0pwuqgr25NOFvliU>
- **Justice for Aboriginal People's – It's Time.** 6-minute video by the Public Service Alliance of Canada responding to the question "Why don't you people just get over it?" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5DrXZUlinU>
- **Where are the Children?** <http://www.legacyofhope.ca/projects/where-are-the-children/video> A 20-minute historical overview of the establishment and operation of the Indian residential school system.
- **We Were Children.** http://www.nfb.ca/film/we_were_children/. In this 83-minute feature film, the impact of the residential school system is portrayed through the eyes of 2 children who were forced to face hardships beyond their years. As young children, Lyna and Glen, were taken from their homes and placed in church-run boarding schools, where they suffered years of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, the effects of which persist in their adult lives. The film gives voice to a national tragedy and demonstrates the incredible resilience of the human spirit.
- **Healing of the Nations** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XuSX6bq4gQ&list=PL71482B1682317B54> Includes 3 minutes on the Apology Cairn dedication 1988; and 4-part *Pinawa East, South, West, North* coverage of the Living into Right Relations gathering held at Pinawa, Manitoba, May 2008; and a 2-part interview with TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson, a United Church member from Yellowknife at the 40th General Council, 2009 reflecting on the task of Truth and Reconciliation (total 9 minutes)
- **Why Reconciliation?** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWA9wksPuA> Karen Joseph, the Executive Director of Reconciliation Canada, says now is the time for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal to come together to reconcile and heal past wounds on all sides. Speaking at the UCC TURNing over Tables justice-seekers gathering October 2013 – 8 minutes.
- **They Came for the Children** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdWVvm139Ax0> A speech by Justice Murray Sinclair, Chairperson of the TRC on Dec. 11, 2009.
- **Gently Whispering the Circle Back.** The story of the emergence of Blue Quill College in St. Paul as a place of healing and reconciliation. Contact Beth Wishart MacKenzie (producer) to arrange a screening or obtain a copy. bwishmac@gmail.com

Workshops and Conversation Supports

- **Reconciliation: What does it Mean to Us?** Check out this workshop resource available at <http://www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/schools/resources>
- **Mending the Circle: Potluck Dialogue Toolkit** prepared by John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, Edmonton. Available from their website: <http://www.jhcentre.org>
- **The Blanket Exercise.** An interactive activity that uses blankets to help tell the story of North America and the impact of colonization on the sharing of the land that was home for Indigenous people. Available to purchase as a document or download from Kairos. <http://www.kairoscanada.org/shop/>

Books:

- **Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry: Conversations on Creation, Land Justice and Life Together.** Edited by Steve Heinrichs. 2013. A collection of essays showcasing a variety of voices both traditional and Christian, native and non-native that offers up alternative histories, radical theologies, and poetic, life-giving memories that can unsettle our souls and work toward reconciliation. Essays on land use, creation, history, and faith appear among poems and reflections by people across ethnic and religious divides. The writers do not always agree but they represent the hard truths that we must hear before reconciliation can come.
- **The Kiss of the Fur Queen.** Tomson Highway. 1998. Semi-autobiographical. Story of two brothers and their resilience to overcoming their residential school experiences.
- **The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America.** Thomas King. 2012. This is a critical and personal meditation that Thomas King has conducted over the past 50 years about what it means to be "Indian" in North America. King is careful to indicate in his introduction that this isn't a history, although it contains many references to historical facts. He includes personal anecdotes, but not footnotes and references. As he says, it isn't an academic work but it is full of real accounts, of references to real

treaties, real laws, and real legal decisions. It is full of passion, humour, and insight about how native peoples have been treated in the United States and Canada,

- *Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada*. Paulette Regan. 2011. In her book, Paulette Regan presents the case that in order to truly participate in the transformative possibilities of reconciliation, non-Aboriginal Canadians must undergo their own process of decolonization, and “relinquish the persistent myth of themselves as peacemakers and acknowledge the destructive legacy of a society that has stubbornly ignored and devalued Indigenous experience.” Regan, a non-Indigenous individual and academic, writes this book from the perspective of her own work within the Canadian government, and as a result of her own learning journey as a Director of Research for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- *We are all Treaty People*. Roger Epp. 2008. A collection of essays —some personal, some poetic and some political — that invite us to rediscover our prairie heritage as we live attentively and responsibly in rural western Canada. He makes the provocative claim that Aboriginal and settler alike are “Treaty people”; he retells inherited family stories in that light and suggests that rural livelihoods and communities are now under intense economic and cultural pressure.
- *Speaking my Truth: Reflections on Reconciliation & Residential School*. Selected by Shelagh Rogers et al., 2012. Aboriginal Healing Foundation. A collection of essays and stories that share the experience of residential school students and their families along with reactions to apologies from the government, that not only included First Nations, but also Japanese-Canadians and Chinese-Canadians.
- *Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese. Novel about the legacy of the Indian residential schools as seen through an intergenerational survivor’s story.
- *A Geography of Blood: Unearthing Memory from a Prairie Landscape*. Candace Savage. 2012. Nonfiction. The author shares her journey of exploring the landscape and history in Eastend, Saskatchewan. Through her exploration she uncovers a darker reality—a story of cruelty and survival set in the still-recent past—and finds that she must reassess the story she grew up with as the daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter of prairie homesteaders.
- *Orenda*. Joseph Boyden. 2013.
- *Funny, You Don’t Look Like One: Observations from a Blue-Eyed Ojibway*. Drew Hayden Taylor. 1997.

Children’s Books

- *The Sharing Circle*. Theresa Meuse-Dallien. 2003. Stories about First Nations Culture
- *Fatty Legs*. Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton. 2010. Margaret’s story of attending residential school in Aklavik.
- *Shi-Shi-Etko*. Nicola Campbell. 2005. A little girl preparing to leave her West Coast family and home for residential school. Also made into a 6-minute film. www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKErhCGjSDE. And a lesson plan to go with it at <http://twinkleshappyplace.blogspot.ca/2010/02/lesson-plan-for-shi-shi-etko.html>
- *Shin-chi’s Canoe*. Nicola Campbell. 2008. Shi-shi-etko’s brother also goes to residential school.

Websites:

- <http://www.trc.ca> Website of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- <http://www.projectofheart.ca/> Website full of resources for all ages to learn about residential school history using a variety of materials and strategies.
- <http://www.united-church.ca/aboriginal> It is full of information and resources to use within congregations.
- <http://thechildrenremembered.ca/> This website has all the photos and history summaries of United Church operated residential schools.
- <http://www.ahf.ca/> You can order the book, *Speaking My Truth*, from this website for free.
- www.kairoscanada.org/tre. Website of KAIROS Canada. Resources and workshop support for indigenous rights. Coordinating of and information sharing on events across Canada.
- <http://www.legacyofhope.ca/> Legacy of Hope has produced many resources, including an on-line classroom exhibit, and Edu-Kit and Teachers Bundle *100 Years of Loss*.

Sign up for the list serve that will be hosted by Alberta and Northwest Conference of the United Church of Canada. Send your name, phone number, congregation, presbytery and email to trc@anwconf.com. Please share the link with others and encourage them to sign up. We will use this link to help people share information about events and activities as we move towards the March 27-30, 2014 National Event to be held in Edmonton.