



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

TORONTO
EDUCATION DAY
JUNE 13, 2014
METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE

FOSTERING RECONCILIATION THROUGH EDUCATION



TRC EDUCATION DAY

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014 | 10am - 2:15pm

PHOTO: Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School, Kenora, ON. Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives, G-3796-FC-15z

WELCOME!



A Message from



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Welcome. As Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, we acknowledge that Toronto Education Day is taking place within the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit.

For 160 years, thousands of Aboriginal children in Ontario were sent to Indian Residential Schools funded by the federal government, and run by various churches. They were taken from their families and communities, often by force, in order to be stripped of language, cultural identity and traditions. The residential schools are closed now, but the social problems that the schools left in their wake are ongoing.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is an independent commission established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened during the history of the residential schools, and to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

The Commission's mandate will end next year. Most of the tasks set out for it have now been completed. Many truths have been revealed, and there have been meaningful strides towards reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Every day, however, we are reminded that reconciliation is a long-term prospect, and that just as the damage caused by residential schools took place over several generations, it will take generations to repair.

Young people – Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, Canadian-born or not – are clearly not responsible for the harmful policies and practices of the past. But with the help of the adults in their lives who have taken the time to understand Canada's residential school history and legacy, they have an opportunity to contribute a great deal to a better future for themselves and for all people in Canada.

Thank you for bringing your students to Education Day.

Justice Murray Sinclair
CHAIR

Chief Wilton Littlechild
COMMISSIONER

Dr. Marie Wilson
COMMISSIONER



A Message from

**Provincial Advocate
for Children & Youth**

Welcome to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Toronto Education Day. Thank you for being here and for choosing this historic learning opportunity for your students.

As the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, my job is to make sure that young people in Ontario have a chance to have their voices heard. I often work with children in very difficult circumstances who don't have the opportunity to speak out. I am honoured to stand with all young people today, especially with the First Nations youth who, with our Office, created the Feathers of Hope Youth Action Plan for Ontario. Some of them are here today. I hope you will take the opportunity to meet them and learn about their commitment to a better future.

When I attended Education Day in Edmonton this past March at the final TRC National Event, I was impressed by the intense interest young people had in the residential schools and what it means to be a Survivor of the schools. I found the day emotional and very powerful, as I began to appreciate that truth and reconciliation is something all Canadians need to be part of, especially the young adults of tomorrow. As I join you here today at Toronto's Education Day, I hope you too will see how important hope is and how important it is that all of us play a role in making reconciliation a reality for all of Canada.

When you return to your classrooms, please invite your students to imagine how hard it would be to be abruptly taken away from all they know, from family, community and friends, and placed with strangers committed to changing virtually everything about them. This personally felt truth is the beginning of reconciliation.

If reconciliation is to be real, First Nations, Métis and Inuit people need all of Canada to take part in such discussions – and that is why you are here.

Enjoy this memorable day and if you see me out and about, come say hello!

Irwin Elman
PROVINCIAL ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
9am - 9:50am	Arrival and Seating	Halls F&G
10am - 10:15am	Welcome	Halls F&G
Move to Workshop 1		
10:20am – 11:30am	Intergenerational Panel	Meeting Room 716
	Project of Heart	Meeting Room 717
	Film – <i>Hi-Ho Mistahay</i>	Meeting Room 718A
	Survivors in Solidarity	Meeting Room 718B
	Blanket Exercise 1	Meeting Room 803A
	Blanket Exercise 2	Meeting Room 803B
11:30am – noon	LUNCH (to be delivered to the location of Workshop 1)	
Move to Workshop 2		
12:10pm – 1:20pm	Youth Dialogue Panel	Halls F&G
	Intergenerational Panel	Meeting Room 716
	Project of Heart	Meeting Room 717
	Film – <i>Hi-Ho Mistahay</i>	Meeting Room 718A
	Blanket Exercise 1	Meeting Room 803A
	Blanket Exercise 2	Meeting Room 803B
Move to Halls F&G for Tribute		
1:30pm – 2:15pm	Tribute to Survivors	Halls F&G



PHOTO: St. Mary's Residential School, Kenora, ON. La Societé Historique de Saint-Boniface, SHSB-2444

EDUCATION DAY IS DEDICATED to all of the children and youth who went to residential schools and all of the children who will help create a future of new and better relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

PROJECT OF HEART

The Project of Heart workshop will be facilitated by founder Sylvia Smith along with educators and Survivors from Ontario who have been involved in the delivery of this interactive program. The focus will be on Survivor testimony, gestures of reconciliation and social justice for students of all ages.

FILM – HI-HO MISTAHEY

The NFB film “Hi-Ho Mistahey” by Alanis Obomsawin documents the fight for a ‘safe and comfy school’ in Attawapiskat First Nation and the journey of Shannen’s Dream in Ontario and across Canada.

BLANKET EXERCISE

This learning activity engages participants in role play based on our shared history of colonization. It will be co-facilitated by KAIROS Staff and students from the GTA.



PHOTO: General Synod Archives, Anglican Church of Canada. Mohawk Institute, Brantford, Ontario. P75-103-S4-505

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

YOUTH DIALOGUE

Five young people share their experiences and reflections on the impacts of Indian Residential Schools in Canada, their visions of youth's resiliency, and their hopes for our collective future. Reflections from the Listeners' Panel consisting of Irwin Elman, Ontario Youth Advocate, Dr. Marie Wilson, TRC Commissioner and Wab Kinew, Canadian musician, broadcaster, educator and TRC Honorary Witness will follow with a Q&A.

MODERATED BY: Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, Associate Professor, University of Alberta and Director of FNCARES

BREAKING STEREOTYPES

This interactive, youth-led workshop focuses on what leads to stereotypes, the damage that can result, and the responsibility that we all have in breaking the cycle of ignorance that led to the Indian Residential School system in Canada and that continues to perpetuate mistrust and trauma in this country. This workshop is a call to action for all youth.



FACILITATED BY: Feathers of Hope Amplifiers

INTERGENERATIONAL PANEL

Three generations of the Jones family share their experiences, stories of resilience and messages of hope. Survivor Susie Jones, her son Jay Jones and granddaughter Maddy share the remarkable story of struggles, love of family and commitment to reconciliation and social change that is a shared journey through generations of their family.

SURVIVORS IN SOLIDARITY

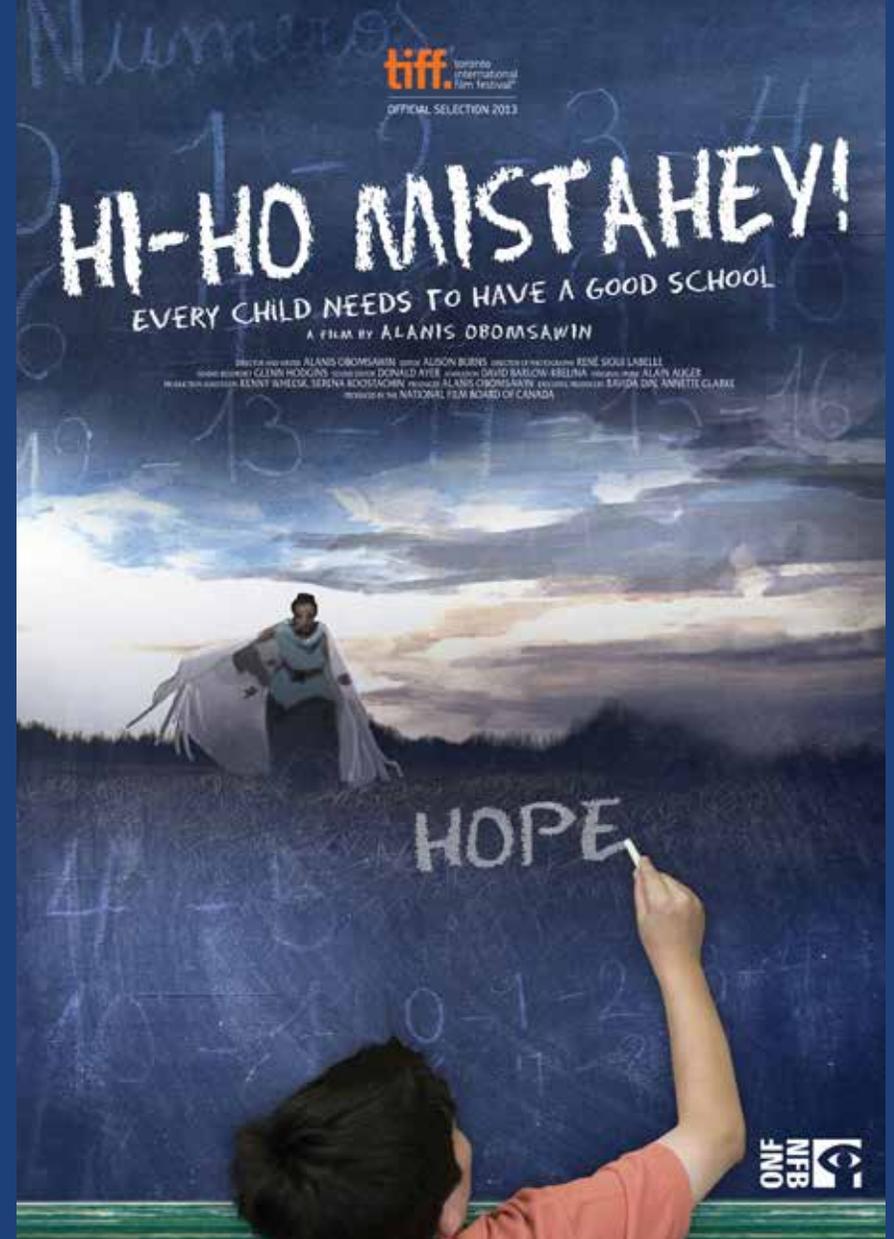
Robbie Waisman survived the Buchenwald concentration camp and became a businessman, community leader and educator. He shares powerful lessons about the perils of indifference and the road to reconciliation.

TRIBUTE TO SURVIVORS

Education Day closes with a beautiful tribute to former students of residential schools, Elders, family and community. Filled with uplifting messages of hope, resilience and reconciliation, this presentation of music, dance and gestures of thanks carries us forward in a good and healing way.

EMCEES: Alex Kabayama & Talon Bird

PARTICIPANTS: Scarborough Boyz, First Fire Dancers, Jingle Dress Dancers, Hoop Dancers and Spoken Word Artists



STAY CONNECTED

with the work of the TRC through social media:



HASHTAG ALERT! Follow us on Twitter @TRC_en! We'll be live-tweeting from the Toronto Education Day.



Over 10,700 people like us on Facebook. You should too! Visit our Truth and Reconciliation Commission page and 'like' us today!



Watch TRC videos on YouTube (TheTRCCanada) and Vimeo. Visit our website and click on the icons.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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KAIROS Canada

Legacy of Hope Foundation

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Project of Heart

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All of the wonderful volunteers

And a special thank you to

