



IMAGINE A CANADA

2021 HONOUREES KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 5

PRESENTED BY:  **WEALTH
MANAGEMENT**



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



IMAGINE A CANADA

The Imagine a Canada program asks youth from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and CÉGEP to envision a Canada reconciled.

Since 2016, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) has received over 1,350+ Imagine a Canada submissions and has worked with thousands of students to realize their hopes and dreams of a Canada they wish to see.

For the 2021 program, students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 were invited to submit artwork, essays, or other representations of a reconciled Canada. Students in Grade 6 to 12 and CÉGEP designed plans for projects that address Reconciliation in their community or school.

In March 2022, ten projects from Kindergarten to Grade 5 and fourteen projects from Grade 6 to 12 and CÉGEP were selected for recognition for being uniquely beautiful, inspiring, and educational. These projects, and the meaning behind them, have been reproduced in one of two publications showcasing the creativity of youth as well as their understanding of Reconciliation.

In addition to being featured in the publication, the chosen projects from Grade 6 to 12 and CÉGEP received a grant of up to \$1,500 to turn their visions into reality.

Youth from all twenty-four projects participated in virtual leadership training exercises where they learned directly from Elders, Survivors, and Knowledge Keepers as well as special guests about Reconciliation, resilience, entrepreneurship, how to manage projects, and how and where to secure funds for future projects.

A national celebration was held on June 10, 2022, to honour the youth and their projects and to learn more about their visions of Reconciliation.

Imagine a Canada 2022-2023 will be launching this fall. Visit education.nctr.ca for more information and to get involved.

The Imagine a Canada program has evolved with the ever-changing education landscape in this country. Knowledge of the residential school system and its impacts is becoming more accessible thanks to the efforts of residential school Survivors who have long hoped their stories and experiences could be used to educate others.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, now more than ever, have a greater understanding of the complex and difficult history of residential schools and this is evident in the number and content of submitted projects.

We are proud to share and celebrate the accomplishments of amazing youth involved in the 2021-2022 Imagine a Canada program. The twenty-four projects featured in these two publications show us what Canada's future can look like if we listen to and support our future leaders.

This year, we were excited to expand the program and offer grants to assist youth to address Reconciliation in their school or community. Reconciliation requires constructive action to address the ongoing impacts of colonial systems like residential school. We were truly inspired by the diversity of submissions based upon respect, understanding, inclusivity, and cultural revitalization.

Each of us has the responsibility to advance Reconciliation in Canada. The Imagine a Canada program helps us to realize youth

visions of a Reconciled Canada to make our country a better place for all.

On behalf of the Governing Circle and the Survivors Circle of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba, I wish to congratulate the youth who have shared their visions with the Centre and all Canadians. I also wish to commend their teachers and mentors, guardians and families, schools and communities for supporting the next generation.

Stephanie Scott
Executive Director, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation



**National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation**

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



IG Wealth Management is honoured to be a part of the Imagine a Canada initiative. We all have a role to play in helping create a more inclusive society that respects and recognizes a reconciled Canada.

Through this amazing program, Canadian youth from across the country have had the opportunity to express their vision of Canada through the lens of reconciliation and to envision what our future together could look like. The results are truly inspiring and empowering.

The collection of art and projects featured in these books celebrates the impactful work of the students, teachers and families who continue to embrace the full scope of Canada's history. Each piece does an amazing job showcasing the bravery and innovation of Canada's young people today as they champion the rich history and culture of our Indigenous communities.

The unique visions expressed through these pieces of work demonstrate the strength and commitment that young people have towards building a more equitable future for Canadians coast-to-coast.

On behalf of IG, I'd like to thank all the parents, teachers and mentors who supported these extraordinary youth through their journeys of expression and education. And thank you to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and the Imagine a Canada initiative, for inspiring hope and change for future generations.

And, most importantly, congratulations to the young people represented in this book for creating their visions!

Damon Murchison
President and CEO, IG Wealth Management
Burnaby, BC

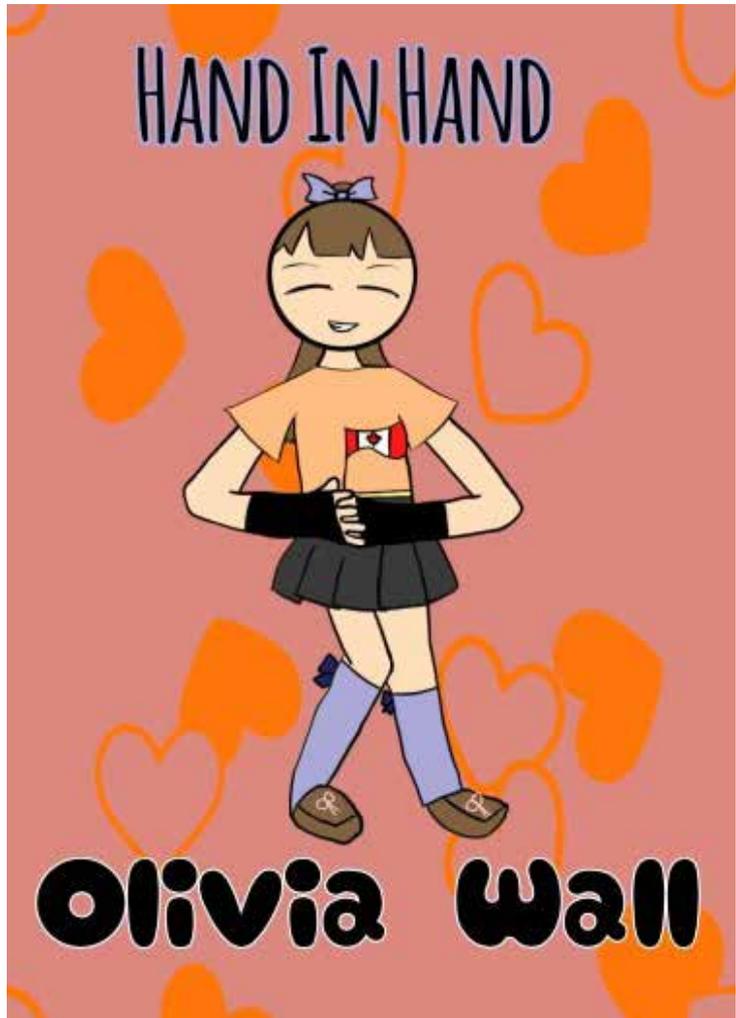
ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL
FOLLOWING THE RULES
TRYING TO BE COOL
FEELING OVERRULED

WHAT I LEARNED TODAY
THINGS HAVE GOT TO CHANGE
THIS IS NOT THE WAY
WE'VE GOT TO BE MORE BRAVE

WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THOSE IN PAIN
WE NEED JUSTICE FROM THOSE WHO WERE IN REIGN
LET'S BUILD OUR HOME, A NATIVE LAND
TOGETHER WE WILL WALK, HAND IN HAND

ALL THIS LEARNING CAN DO
JUST FROM MY SCHOOL
LET US NOT BE FOOLED
SEEK AND FIND THE TRUTH

WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THOSE IN PAIN
WE NEED JUSTICE FROM THOSE WHO WERE IN REIGN
LET'S BUILD OUR HOME, A NATIVE LAND
TOGETHER WE WILL WALK, HAND IN HAND



SAINT PIUS X ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OLIVIA WALL

Vancouver, BC

Olivia submitted a song and a digital artwork to accompany it after learning about Truth and Reconciliation in her school. The cover art to her song, Hand in Hand, is to represent the girl in the song who is walking to school on a fall day. Olivia wanted to write about a girl who goes to school, learns about what happened in residential schools in Canada, and now wants to make a

difference in whatever way she can and hopes that others are inspired to make the world a better place.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

To me, Reconciliation means making things that were not right, better now. This can be done in Canada by coming together, learning and helping those in pain.

TRUTH: THE PAST

The Indian Act has caused so much misery within the borders of this unreconciled nation. As previously stated in the introduction, the Indigenous peoples have suffered so much due to the mistakes of the government. The First Nations were treated almost like prisoners. Being trapped in small reserves, being sent to a residential school hundreds of kilometers away, and having important traditions banished. That is what life was like for Indigenous people for over a hundred years.

To this day, some of the Indian Act remains in place, restricting Indigenous people. While, of course, the laws are nowhere near comparable to what had been forced upon the First Nations at the time, some rights are yet to be achieved.

The horrors of the Canadian Residential Schools represent the absolute worst of how much cruelty was inflicted upon the First Peoples. Being partially run by the Catholic Church, the children were forced to abandon their own beliefs and pray in a completely different way. They were forbidden from speaking their languages. Young children were put to work. And if they refused, they could expect being locked in a dark room for hours or days. They could expect being strapped. All of this was put into place in an attempt to assimilate the First Nations culture into Canadian society. The Canadian government wanted nothing more than complete dominance over the territory. No sign of hope was left behind for the Indigenous people in Canada.

Canada excluded not only the rights of Indigenous people, but also the rights of Asian cultures. The Komagata Maru incident of 1914 demonstrates this perfectly.

On May 23rd, 1914, the vessel "Komagata Maru" arrived in Vancouver harbour after leaving India with immigrants who attempted to start a new life in Canada. To their surprise, they weren't as welcomed as they may have imagined. The Canadian Government restricted a large portion of Asian immigrants from arriving in the country. The ship was not permitted to dock, and nor were the passengers allowed to disembark. The immigrants were starving, and the people of Vancouver provided a very small amount of food for the passengers. After spending two months in Coal Harbour in Vancouver, the ship was ordered to depart. The incident was widely cited by Indian groups. This is an example of Canadian

RECONCILIATION: THE PRESENT

Ever since Prime Minister Stephen Harper's federal apology in 2008, plenty has changed to reflect on our past. Just this year, a new federal day of commemoration was added to the annual calendar. The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation was introduced. The day of reconciliation will occur every year on the 30th of September. Throughout the day, the entirety of the country quiet to remember our dark history. It is more crucial than anything to ensure that Canada continues to reconcile.

It is important to note that the Canadian Government was under no full obligation to announce a formal apology for the terrors of the Indian Act. While Stephen Harper's speech didn't exactly seem remorseful, what was stated is very important.

In June of 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada published a new historic report known as the "Calls to Action". This report included and authorized 94 calls to action, which are separated into six different categories. These categories include: child welfare, education, health, justice, language and culture. The Calls to Action are a direct response to the legacy of the former discriminatory policies of the Indian Act, especially the residential school system. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission published this intending to repent on the legacy of our past.

However, only 14 of the 94 Calls to Action have officially been completed after six years. According to the British Columbia Treaty Commission, 23 are in progress with projects underway, 37 are in progress with projects proposed, and 20 are yet to be stated. So far, this has left many unaccounted for, leaving many with mixed feelings about the proposal.

The Government of Canada is also offering millions of dollars in funding to First Nations communities across the country. This funding goes to help develop the educational system, health care, and for more. Over the years, many more organizations about Truth and Reconciliation have been founded. Some of these include, but are not limited to: Reconciliation Canada, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Much consideration has been put into ensuring the well-being of the First Nations communities across Canada. For over a century, Indigenous cultures across the country have been harmed. It is proposed that the process of recovering from the terrible outcomes of the discrimination forced against Indigenous cultures will take generations. It is quite hard to believe that, at the time, nothing was done to protect the rights of the native people in Canada. The single most important question to ask is: what are we currently doing enough? If it is not, how may we improve that?

Of course, there couldn't be a single right or wrong answer to this complicated question. Maybe, the most important piece is to simply protect Indigenous rights, if that is being done, perhaps, yes, it is enough. Nevertheless, people continue to suffer from former losses. Many residential school survivors are permanently traumatized due to their horrid experiences. Nothing can possibly be done about many of these things. Unfortunately, there cannot be a single solution to fixing this massive piece in our legacy.

In my mind, what Canada is doing is not enough. I believe Indigenous cultures warrant the right to full inclusion in Canadian society, regardless of the circumstances. The reality is that the Indigenous people inhabited our land prior to European colonization. This territory was taken from the hands of First Nations. Should there have been formal consent, perhaps Canadian colonization was not wrong. What the English did is practically like taking over an entire country.

SAINT PIUS X ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

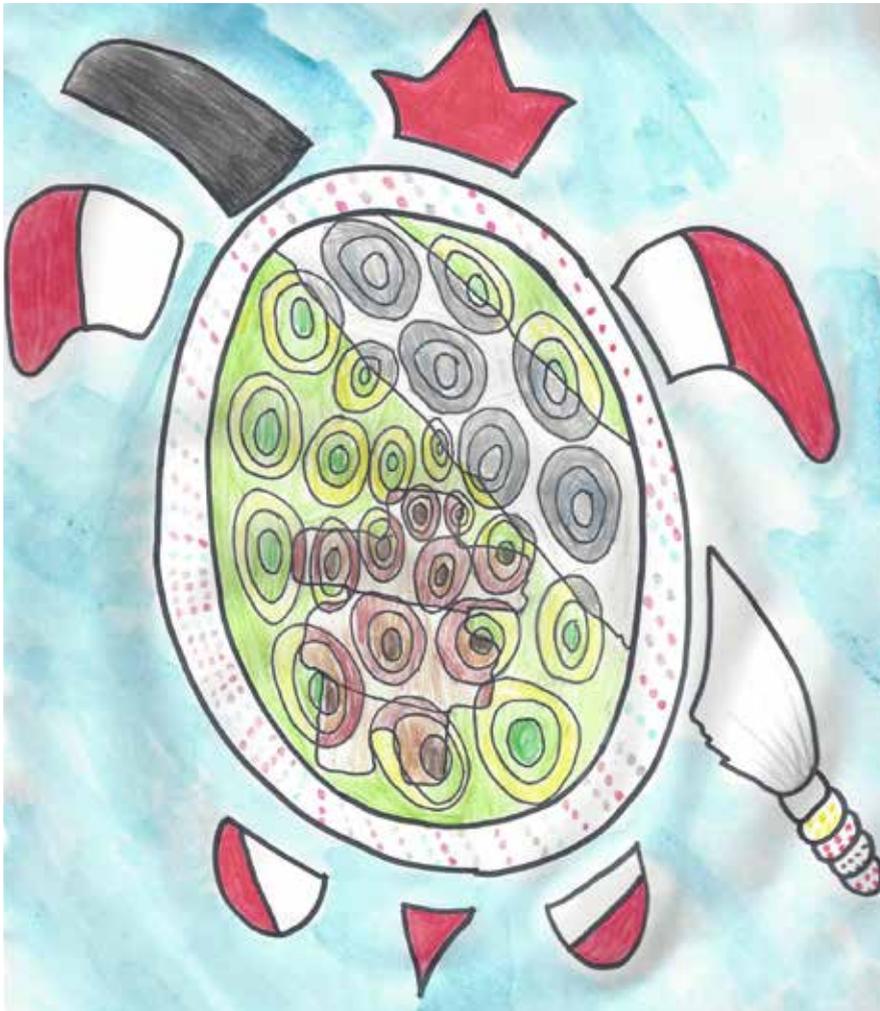
MAKSIMAS VISCONTAS

Vancouver, BC

Maksimas wrote an essay, Imagine a Canada - Truth and Reconciliation, where he explains the history between Indigenous Peoples and Canada. He also imagines what a better Canada could look like, one that is reconciled. Maksimas hopes that others recognize what has happened in the past in our country and what is being done to change it.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation means realizing what has been done incorrectly. It also means reflecting on and realizing what could have been better. In order to reconcile, you must make up for wrongdoing.



A. BLAIR MCPHERSON SCHOOL

KATRINA PODRIDSKÉ

Edmonton, Alberta

Katrina submitted a mixed-media art piece entitled, We All Belong, which depicts representations of First Nations (eagle feather), Métis (dot-work beads), and Inuit (Inukshuk) Peoples alongside Settlers (Canadian flag) living on Turtle Island. She writes that we all need each other for a new chapter to start Reconciliation and hope that we all remember to treat Indigenous Peoples with respect and honour as we all belong.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation means that no matter what culture you are, or where you are from, we all belong on Turtle Island.

What Reconciled Canada means to me

Fair Rights by Lingkhaam Ho

A reconciled place is a place where people have all the rights to do all things that all people could do instead of having to listen to what oppressors tell you to.



Reconciled Canada

Rights for all	Change happens
Every voice is heard	A safe place
Caring about others	N
Once and always at peace	Always important
No racism	Dwelling
C	Anyone and everyone is welcome
I	
Land is respected	
Everybody is equal	
D	

An acoustic poem by Brooklyn Johnson

What is truth and reconciliation in my words?

By Daniel Wang

Truth and reconciliation means freedom and right for the indigenous people. Truth and reconciliation means fairness for the people who have been on Canada for years and years.



EARL BUXTON SCHOOL

LINGKHAAM HO, DANIEL WANG, AND BROOKLYN JOHNSON

Edmonton, Alberta

Lingkhaam, Daniel, and Brooklyn submitted poems entitled, Having Fair Rights, to show that having fair rights is necessary for all peoples in Canada. The different light and dark colours that were used represent the different groups of people in a Reconciled Canada.

Our thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation means learning the history and the truth about the lives of Indigenous peoples, honoring the survivors, elders, and people who were killed and are no longer with us, and changing the way in which we treat others.



DAVID LIVINGSTONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A'EMILIO CASAREZ

Winnipeg, Manitoba

A'Emilio submitted a painting called, Turtle in the Sea, to represent a reconciled Canada that is peaceful and quiet like the places where turtles swim and who are never mean to each other. She would like others to be inspired by the painting as they would be inspired by the sea and the turtles who live there. She hopes everyone can go see those turtles and make a handprint in the sand with them.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation means to be peaceful at home, outside, and in school. Calming down, like how watching turtles swim can calm you down, and putting your hand in water with the turtles to make your handprint.



DAVID LIVINGSTONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

JASMINE ONAM

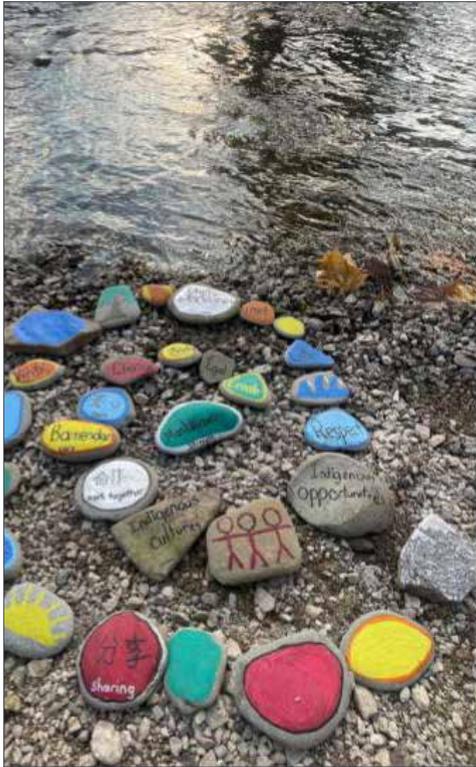
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Jasmine submitted a painting, *Peaceful Night*, to represent a quiet, safe place that is peaceful. It is represented by a home next to a lake surrounded by trees, rocks, and grass with a clear sky full of stars and the moon. She hopes that this painting can

inspire peace having drawn upon past teachings learned through the community Elder, the late Madeline Mousseau.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Canada should apologize to residential school Survivors.



I learned that reconciliation means lots of different things to different people when I researched, wrote letters and painted these words on the stone path. The dictionary says that reconciliation means to restore a friendship, but I learned that it means much more than that. To learn more about reconciliation, I wrote to an indigenous educator. I learned a lot about what reconciliation means to him from his letter. For example, one thing I learned from him is that it is important to value the perspectives of indigenous people in reconciliation. I found stones along the river, and I painted each stone with words that symbolize what I learned about what reconciliation means in the future. As a matter of fact, the center of the path represents the start of reconciliation and your walk along the path represents reconciliation into the future. Interestingly, I thought of making a spiral path on a hike near the Credit River (Missinnihe). To share what I've learned with more people, I included Ojibwe, French, Chinese and English words. I included some unpainted stones so that other people in my school and community can write what reconciliation means to them. Finally, I took a picture of the path near the Credit River and talked about it with people who walked by. When I think about reconciliation in the future, I think of these words and this stone path.

OSPREY WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOL

JAMES TENG

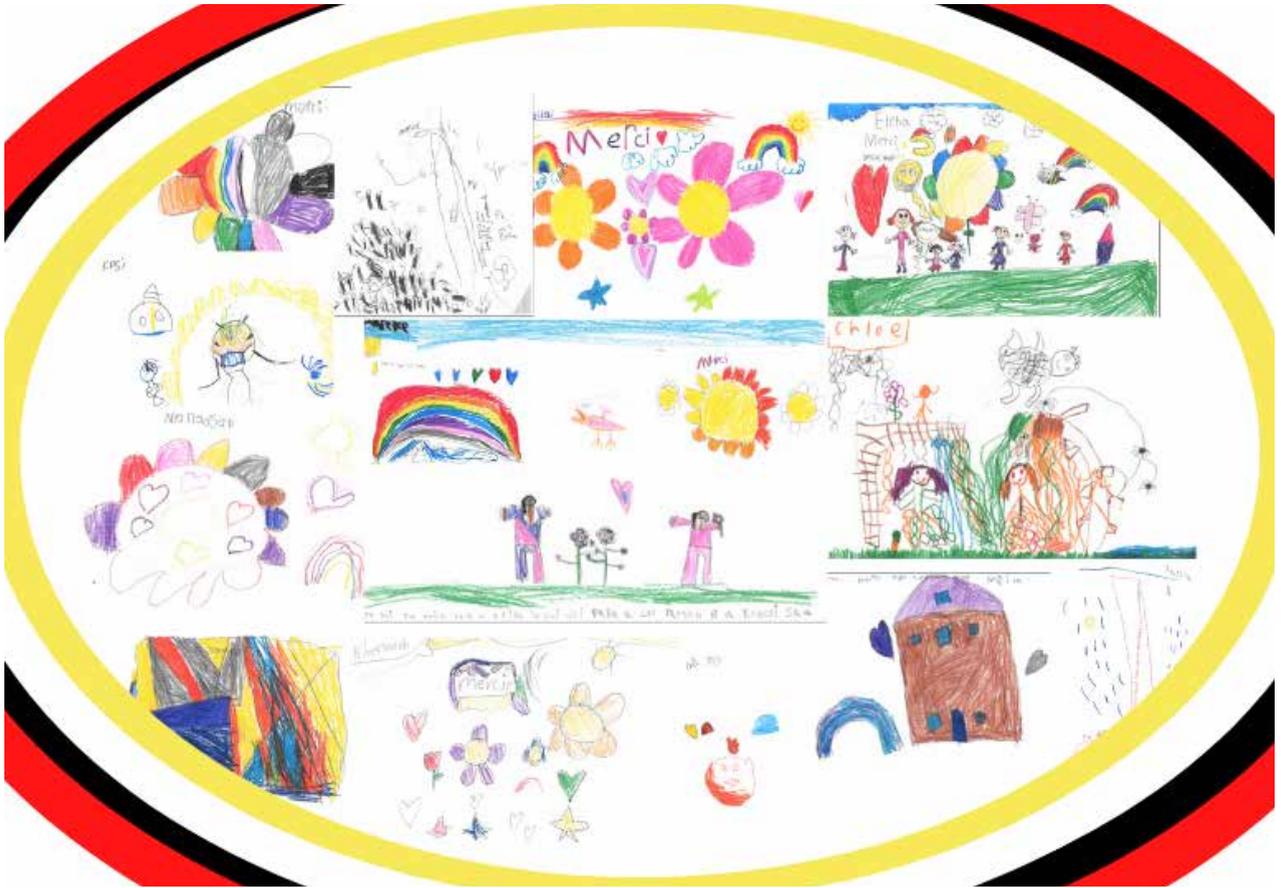
Mississauga, Ontario

James took a photo entitled, Path of Reconciliation, where he made a spiral out of painted stones. Each stone has a word written in either English, French, Chinese, or Ojibwe (Anishinaabemowin) that symbolizes what he learned about what Reconciliation means in the future. There were also unpainted stones left so that others in his school and community could write what Reconciliation means to them.

James hopes that his work inspires others to look at things through an Indigenous perspective. Reconciliation means more than restoring a friendship and takes time and persistence.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation means different things to different people, but this is what it means to me. In my opinion, Reconciliation means caring and understanding about what happened in the past, listening to indigenous voices, and sharing opportunities with others. All of us should share what we learned so more people know about Reconciliation.



CHARLOTTE-LEMIEUX PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LAURENCE GRIFFIN-CARLSON AND CLASS

Ottawa, Ontario

Laurence and her class submitted a collection of drawings entitled, Nature is Liberty, as an offering of thanks to Indigenous Peoples for being on Indigenous land. It is their wish to let others know they have heard their stories about residential school and the pains Survivors and their families have experienced.

Each student drew something to say thank you and to offer their thoughts on Reconciliation. Some drew their home on their territory, another a rainbow, and Laurence drew a child with

Métis flower designs and wrote: "I am very sad and angry at the people who started this."

Our thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation means to us: taking an immediate initiative, knowing and reflecting. Building and establishing a better relationship with Indigenous communities and finding ways to move forward together.



ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

ELIZABETH BURNABE

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Elizabeth submitted a drawing called Forgiveness which represents her feelings and thoughts about those who were taken to residential schools. The picture shows the story of little girl growing up happy and full of love in her home before she was sent residential school and was separated from her mother. While attending residential school she felt afraid and lonely but she's willing to forgive. The red hands are to represent the friends she

has lost who have gone missing. Her drawing was inspired by and drawn with love.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation is forgiveness which is important to have a peaceful life.



ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

SEBASTIAN BURNABE

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Sebastian submitted a drawing he called Hope. In his drawing, Canada and the Northwest Territories are represented in the girl's hair, water is represented on her nose, and the raven is represented in her nostril. At the top of her head are Indigenous Peoples represented by the teepee but also in the dreamcatcher, inukshuk, and mitts. The background represents the land and natural habitat of animals.

The remembrance day sign is on her orange shirt, the red hand on her face is for missing Indigenous girls, and she wears an orange shirt to represent the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Sebastian wants people to be inspired by his picture of an Indigenous girl representing residential school Survivors and their families. She has a strong link with the elements that are shared across Canada, protecting the land, forgive others, and heal for a better future.

My thoughts on Reconciliation are:

Reconciliation means forgiveness of any wrong-doing and coming up with common understanding for a better relationship despite the pain and suffering caused in the past in exchange of hope for a unified future.

Survivors' Flag

“WE MUST REMEMBER THE CHILDREN WHO NEVER MADE IT HOME AND INSPIRE THE YOUTH OF TODAY TO BE THE LEADERS OF TRUTH, RECONCILIATION AND HEALING.”

- KUKDOOKAA TERRI BROWN, SURVIVOR

The image is a story derived from a culmination of hours of sustained dialogue with residential school Survivors across Canada. It carries the lived experiences of Survivors and is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada.

For more information on the Survivors' flag, visit nctr.ca/exhibits/survivors-flag/



