

Here are 8 ways non-indigenous people can engage with the process of reconciliation:

① Recognize the word Indigenous refers to diverse and distinct nations.

- Indigenous is a collective name for first nations which includes hundreds of distinct and independent nations across the country and even the world each with unique histories, traditions and languages.
- Ask those you interact with how they identify. What tribe they are, rather than, are they Native Americans. Learn what tribes live and work in your area. It is important when engaging with the process of reconciliation to remember the diversity among first nations.

② Learn the history between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples.

- Before we act, we must learn. The stories and voices of the Indigenous peoples must be and continue to be highlighted in our educational systems. The relationship history of both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous has been one of imbalance and injustice.
- It is important to be mindful of the history when engaging in reconciliation.

③ Understanding the history and legacy of residential schools.

- Indian residential schools sought to destroy Indigenous cultures and languages and to assimilate Indigenous people so they no longer existed. For over 150 years Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and sent to these schools, with the last schools closing in 1996. It is both a long and recent history.
- To engage with the process of reconciliation, we must acknowledge residential school experiences, impacts and consequences, including intergenerational trauma.

④ Explore the unique intersections we have between treaty, Constitutional and Indigenous human rights.

- Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples have different relationships with the government. The legal rights of Indigenous peoples are changing all the time.
- To fully engage with the process of reconciliation, time and attention must be given to the power and agency that Indigenous peoples are reclaiming and what that looks like and why it is important.

⑤ Recognize the rich contributions that Indigenous Peoples have made.

- The countries are indebted to the diverse cultures and nations of Indigenous peoples and the rich history and knowledge they have contributed to Turtle Island.
- Cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land are essential to the process of reconciliation.

⑥ Take action to address historical injustices and present day wrongs.

- Before taking action, learn how to address unconscious biases about Indigenous Peoples and unlearn harmful stereotypes. This provides the necessary tools to act in a culturally sensitive and well informed way.
- It is important to reflect on why you are taking action, the affects you hope to achieve with these actions and how you will include Indigenous Peoples in your actions.

⑦ Teach Others what we have learned. This is a crucial step while engaging with reconciliation, as it deepens our own learnings and understandings and helps create a community of culturally safe people.

- It is important to refer and guide people to Indigenous sources and information while we begin to teach people about the importance of reconciliation and all we have learned, we must make sure that it is grounded in the voices and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

⑧ Create a culturally safe environment

— Creating a culturally safe environment is an important step in creating a culturally safe world, wherein Indigenous peoples are included in all spaces, without barriers and without access to traditional knowledge and practices.