

**Manitou Conference Minute for Right Relations:
New Year Resolutions: Taking Steps toward Reconciliation**

Every New Year, I think about living more in tune with what the Creator wants for my life and how I live my faith in the world. So I make a few resolutions with that hope. I am hunching you do the same thing ...

Have you thought about setting one or more resolutions to seek reconciliation with Indigenous peoples? The goal is to think about Indigenous-settler relationships in new ways and to act on those new understandings. Here are some possible resolutions for you:

- Find out whose traditional territory you worship, live and work on and acknowledge that publicly;
- Attend a cultural event such as a pow wow (yes, everybody can go!)
- Learn a greeting in a local Indigenous language;
- Tune into “Unreserved” on CBC Radio on Tuesdays, 1pm;
- Listen when Indigenous people are speaking ... talk less;
- Choose one plant or flower in your area and learn how Indigenous people use(d) it;
- Check out the website of the nearest First Nation(s) or Indigenous communities to you, and read their short introduction and history;
- Support Indigenous authors by purchasing their books;
- Host or participate in a KAIROS Blanket exercise;
- Pray for the families and friends of murdered & missing Indigenous women, and watch the community hearings of the National Inquiry into Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women & Girls on www.cpac.ca;
- Learn about Bill C-262, an act that would align Canadian law with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and encourage your MP in the House of Commons to support it;
- Research Indigenous NHL & Olympic athletes;
- Familiarize yourself with the important work of Cindy Blackstock;
- Make a donation to the national UC Healing Fund that supports healing initiatives for residential school survivors and its on-going intergenerational impact.

May 2018 be a year when we get even closer to that ultimate goal of reconciliation! Be part of the journey!

*Written by Rev Teresa Jones, MTU Conf Living into Right Relations
Cmte, adapted from the work of C. Fraser & S. Komarnisky*