

Right Relations Resource Team (CSRC)

Minute for Right Relations June, 2020

June 1 marks the start of National Indigenous History Month when we honour the history, heritage and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada. June is an important month to honour Indigenous peoples in Canada. It begins with two important occasions: the fifth anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action on June 2, and the first anniversary of the release of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' final report on June 3. Later in the month, we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21.

This is a good time to reflect on the reconciliation efforts made by our government and our Church and to ask ourselves, what more needs to be done. Throughout the month of June, the Right Relations Resource team encourages you to seek out resources and information about Indigenous peoples.

The United Church of Canada has published some helpful resources to use in worship and small group study. They can be found by visiting <https://www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/indigenous-day-prayer> or <https://www.united-church.ca/worship-theme/indigenous>.

Kairos Canada has also published some great information and resources which can be found by visiting <https://www.kairoscanada.org/category/indigenous-rights>

As we have all borne witness to the tragic events in the US, we are reminded that there is much more work we need to do to create a just society. It is not just enough to agree that something must be done, we each have to take an active role in working for justice. How can you help?

- Read the TRC's Calls to Actions and consider ways that your Church and your community can work towards those calls.
- Contact your local, provincial and federal representatives urging them to support Indigenous issues such as: encouraging the adoption and implementation of UNDRIP (The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), taking action on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women inquiry, etc.
- Advocate and support efforts to ensure every community has access to clean drinking water, safe schools and adequate health care.
- Educate yourself on your local treaty and your Indigenous neighbours
- Attend a Kairos Blanket exercise or other learning event related to Indigenous people
- Read books written by Indigenous authors, listen to Indigenous music and watch movies, plays and documentaries written by Indigenous people.

*Written by Lisa Blais, on behalf of the Canadian Shield Regional Council
Right Relations Resource Team*