

## Minute for Right Relations

### Indigenous Day of Prayer - June 2021

Indigenous Day of Prayer, the Sunday before National Indigenous Peoples' Day (June 21) is an opportunity to celebrate First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples' values, customs, languages, and culture. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs.

In 1971, the observance of June 21 as a National Indigenous Day of Prayer was formally recognized by The United Church of Canada at the 24<sup>th</sup> General Council. This date is close to the date of the summer solstice, part of many First Nations' spiritual and cultural celebrations.

This day is an opportunity to learn about the Peoples who were here thousands of years before settlers came and also, to act in supporting the rights and sovereignty of all Indigenous Peoples.

Joining in the celebrations across Canada is a wonderful way to learn more about Indigenous Peoples and culture in your local area.

1. Check out local Indigenous Celebrations and attend
2. Prepare a traditional indigenous recipe with your children or grandchildren
3. Share music with your family or friends by indigenous musicians and singers
4. Read a book (child or adult) by and indigenous author. Check out Canadian Shield Regional Council under the tab of **Right Relations Resources** Summer Reading list)
5. Read **The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, the framework for reconciliation across all sectors of Canadian Society . Found here: (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/links-liens.html>)
6. Read about the 94 Calls to Action (the Truth and Reconciliation report.). It addresses the tragedy of Residential Schools in Canada  
[http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)
7. Research the impact of colonialism on Indigenous Peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.
8. Read about the progress in addressing the unsafe drinking water on reserves and how far we have yet to go. Think of your own access to clean water.
9. Check out the Canadian Shield Regional Council, Right Relations, and The North Bay and Area Indigenous Solidarity Team Websites.
10. Find out about the **Treaty** that your own residence or place of worship is sitting on.
11. **Write** your MP and MPPs and PM about the need for equity in funding for health, social services, education, and clean, safe water in every indigenous community.
12. Read about the **United Church of Canada's apologies** and the responses <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/apologies-response-crest.pdf>
13. On the Right Relations Resources on the CSRC website, see **A Pilgrimage for Reconciliation**, a history of the apologies in a 2021, 15 min. video.

Prepared by Janie Clayton on behalf of Living in Right Relations, CSRC