

A MINUTE FOR RIGHT RELATIONS

Indigenous Canada – MOOC– March 2022

When you only know part of the story, you don't know the whole story. When you learn new parts of the story, your understanding grows deeper.

When it comes to understanding Indigenous histories and cultures, there is lots to learn. And as settlers, we have a lot of work to do and a lot of learning to do. So many of us are asking, "Why didn't I learn this in school?" and "I'm an educated person, but I don't know enough any of this." Maybe you wish you understood things a little more: First Nations cultures and ceremonies, treaties, the Indian Act, residential schools. We all have a lot to learn!

Maybe if we all knew a bit more, we'd make some more progress on our journey of truth and reconciliation. Justice Murray Sinclair, speaking about residential schools, observed that it was education that got us here, and he is convinced that education will help us find a way forward toward reconciliation.

There are many ways to learn more about the history and the issues. One of those ways is to register in an open-access course called "Indigenous Canada," hosted by the University of Alberta. The course is free. It's called a "MOOC" – a massive open online course – and so far, almost half a million people have registered.

Maybe you've heard about it? You can start any time. It's completely free. You can work at your own pace. And you are sure to learn lots of things you didn't already know. Go ahead, google it: MOOC at University of Alberta.

Do you wonder what it might be like to take that course? If you'd like to hear about one person's experience as a learner, check out the Canadian Shield Regional Council Right Relations Team webpage. There's a new video to watch! Two members of the RRT (both of them settler allies) - Sylvia Carscadden, of St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury, and Linda Ambrose, from St. Peter's United, Sudbury, chat about Sylvia's experience as a student in this course. Sylvia is learning about treaties, about the Indian Act, and about Indigenous art. She's really enjoying the course. Sylvia finds it really easy to access, and she's learning so much! Maybe this is a course for you too?

Check out the video <https://youtu.be/fsIDtzzZ9nk> and hear what it was like for Sylvia to go "back to school" as part of her journey toward reconciliation.

*Submitted by Linda Ambrose
on behalf of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Right Relations Resource Team.*