

# CFICE – A CCE movement on a path of Reconciliation in Canada



*“Starting now, we all have an opportunity to show leadership, courage and conviction in helping heal the wounds of the past as we make a path towards a more just, more fair and more loving country.”*

Justice Murray Sinclair, Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Across Canada, there is an overwhelming energy among citizens to begin a path of reconciliation and to honour the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. Indigenous engagement, indigenization of community work or of institutions, decolonization and reconciliation all exist at the forefront of community-campus engagement (CCE) initiatives. **It is important to unpack and reflect on the settler colonial perspectives that many partners bring to the relationships that are fostered within CCE efforts.**

CFICE partners have indicated a strong interest in learning about how to more meaningfully embed decolonized and traditional Indigenous methodologies, non-conventional methodologies for research, community development and practices, and policy development into community-campus partnerships. They are committed to inclusive practices that not only incorporate established academic ethics standards, but that also **build ethical spaces** (see reference to Dr. Willie Ermine’s work on this theme on the next page) to encourage authentic and culturally-safe opportunities for collaboration. This approach disrupts colonial methodologies and encourages novel methods of engagement, learning, and knowing within CCE work.

## Why we are on this journey:

Often there is great debate about what “indigenization” and “reconciliation” mean. These conversations are challenging because they rock the foundations of knowing among citizens and force many to revisit a history that may be unknown, uncertain or even false. **The CCE reconciliation journey includes creating opportunities to listen, reframe and incorporate truths, shared histories and storytelling from Indigenous perspectives; building capacity in community; providing opportunity for growth; and nurturing relationships rooted in trust, reciprocity and equality.**



The Office of the Treaty Commissioner in Saskatchewan ([www.otc.ca](http://www.otc.ca)) proposes that **reconciliation is both a personal and professional journey** and that citizens across Canada have the ability to create an interdependent and fair society that includes:

- A shared understanding of our history: We will have acknowledged, honoured, and healed from the truth and history of this land;
- Authentic relationships: Strong relationships, partnerships and trust will exist among all people;
- Strong cultures, world views and interwoven experiences: Our cultures will be strong, world views respected and our social experiences will have been woven together;
- Political, economic and social systems that represent and benefit us all.

***We’re involved in a national project of remedial learning, and the academy is in the front row.”***

Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

*The institutional base for CFICE is located at Carleton University in Ottawa, on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin people. Project partners from across Canada work, live and learn on the diverse lands of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people.*

CFICE and other CCE efforts across Canada have the opportunity to work towards the implementation and honouring of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #65 and #78** by embedding practices and policies that promote reconciliation in their continua of activities, research and learning across partners:

*“65: We call upon the federal government, through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, post-secondary institutions and educators, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and its partner institutions, to establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance understanding of reconciliation.”*

*“78: We call upon the Government of Canada to commit to making a funding contribution of \$10 million over seven years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, plus an additional amount to assist communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experience and their involvement in truth, healing, and reconciliation.”*

## How to start (or continue) your journey:

Are you aware of the shared history of Canada?

- Start by **reviewing the [Truth and Reconciliation \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#)**, but don't stop there – read the [entire report](#)
- Read about and watch videos of [residential school survivor testimony](#)
- **Gain a better understanding of your local context.** On what lands do you live, work and learn? What are the relationships established with the treaties in your area?

[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Treaties](#)

- **Do you understand what ethical space is?** Reflect on how your practice, beliefs and ways of knowing are influenced by colonial practices. Dr. Willie Ermine speaks about ethical space at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85PPdUE8Mb0>

## Further reading and links:

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, L. (1999). *Decolonizing Methodologies – Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London: Zed Books Ltd.

[Indigenous Research Ethics](#)

[Working Paper: Toward Decolonizing Community Campus Partnerships](#)

[Podcast: Decolonizing Research and Relationships](#)

[A Primer on Indigenous Food, Land and Heritage](#)

[National Aboriginal Day: Reconciliation key to reducing poverty](#)

[How can CCE support Indigenous struggles for land through food?](#)

[Report: Cross-Cultural Food Networks: Building and Maintaining Inclusive Food Security Networks to Support Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities](#)

[Report: Responsibilities and Relationships: Decolonizing the BC Food Systems Network](#)

[Saskatoon Public Library reconciliation reading list](#)

[CBC News, Beyond 94: Truth and Reconciliation in Canada](#)

[Indian Horse film](#)

## Other ways to connect & learn:

### Participate:

Attend and participate in round dances, powwows & other community cultural events

Visit historic sites; learn about local Indigenous languages

Participate in Orange Shirt Day (<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>) & National Indigenous Peoples Day

### Listen:

Meet survivors and listen to their stories

Listen to A Tribe Called Red (<http://atribecalledred.com/>), Tanya Tagaq (<http://tanyatagaq.com/>) and others

Watch: “We were children,” “Birth of a Family,” and/or attend Indigenous theatre productions

### Reflect:

Take a critical look at your social and professional networks—are they reflective of the demographic diversity in your community/ territory/country?

### An important note:

*Do not assume all Indigenous people have “traditional” knowledge and teachings (ceremony and protocol). As individuals on a journey of reconciliation, don't inadvertently assume it's the job of Indigenous peoples to educate settlers.*