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## Taapwaaun Niistim-The Truth first :

Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission  
Calls to Action in our teaching, research and everyday lives

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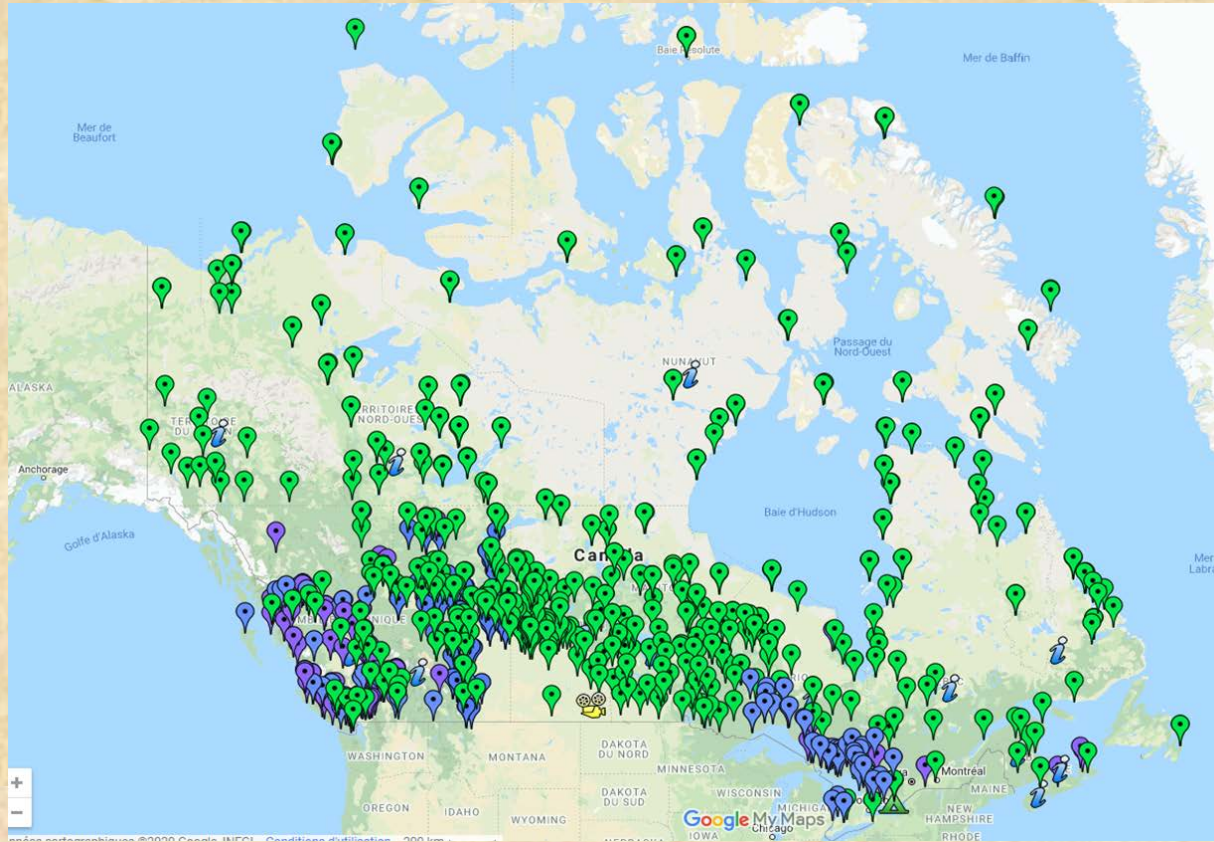
# Indigenous People: Who are we?

- Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Indigenous peoples: Indians (more commonly referred to as First Nations), Inuit and Métis.
- Indian Act is still in force, so you will still see the designation as Indian in certain definitions, however more commonly referred to as First Nations.
- Inuit have their own system of governance, represented by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)





# First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities



- 630 Indigenous Communities
- 50 Nations and Languages

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1ixYRMzIKZKZBEE7VrUrgFmu8IEk&msa=0&ll=53.01981272347327%2C-91.30680827949818&spn=30.36067%2C78.310547&z=5>





# The Nations

- 11 Nations      55 Communities
- Abenakis
  - Algonquins
  - Atikamekw
  - Eeyou (Cree)
  - Innu
  - Wolastiqiyik (Maliseet)
  - Naskapi
  - Huron-Wendat
  - Kanyen'kehà:ka (Mohawk)
  - Mi'kmaq
  - Inuit



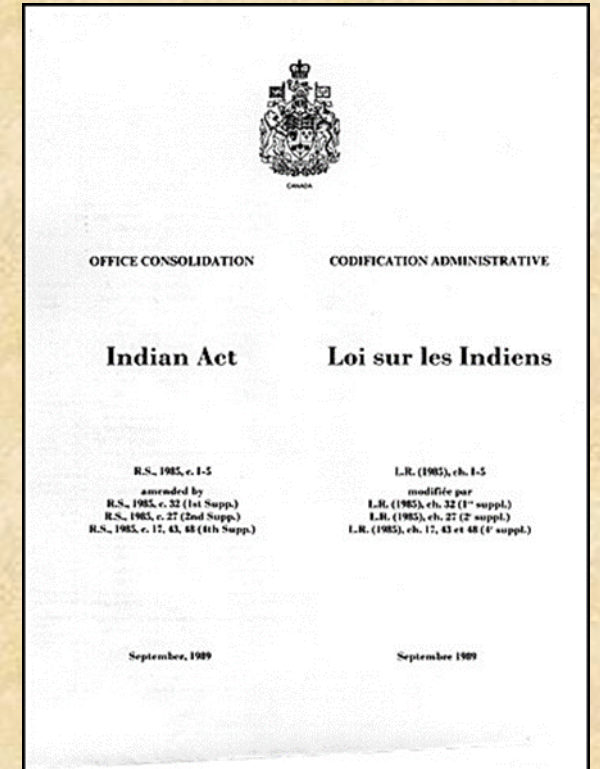


# Indian Act

Treaties were signed as a sign of mutual respect and goodwill between Indigenous people and Settlers.

Then...Sir John A. MacDonald said:

« The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change." John A. Macdonald (1887)





# Residential Schools

- 139 Government mandated, Church administered were active in Canada.
- Children were taken away from their families with the goal of killing the « Indian in the Child ».
- Many were taken away far away from their homes as a strategic move to alienate children from their families.



1944 - Pastoral Visit.





# Map of Residential School Sites



[https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1FQT02WuinFtAe6bgWrJm74G97uie\\_gA7&ll=59.608128206943974%2C-88.286535225&z=4](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1FQT02WuinFtAe6bgWrJm74G97uie_gA7&ll=59.608128206943974%2C-88.286535225&z=4)





# Residential Schools

- Last school closed in 1996
- Canadian Government gave official apology for its hand in these schools (2008)
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission was active between 2008 and 2015, the final report and Calls to Action was released
  - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation September 30





# Kamloops Residential School



- May 28, 2021, discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the site of former residential school in Kamloops, BC.
- Other searches up until now have found 1000+ bodies at other residential school sites

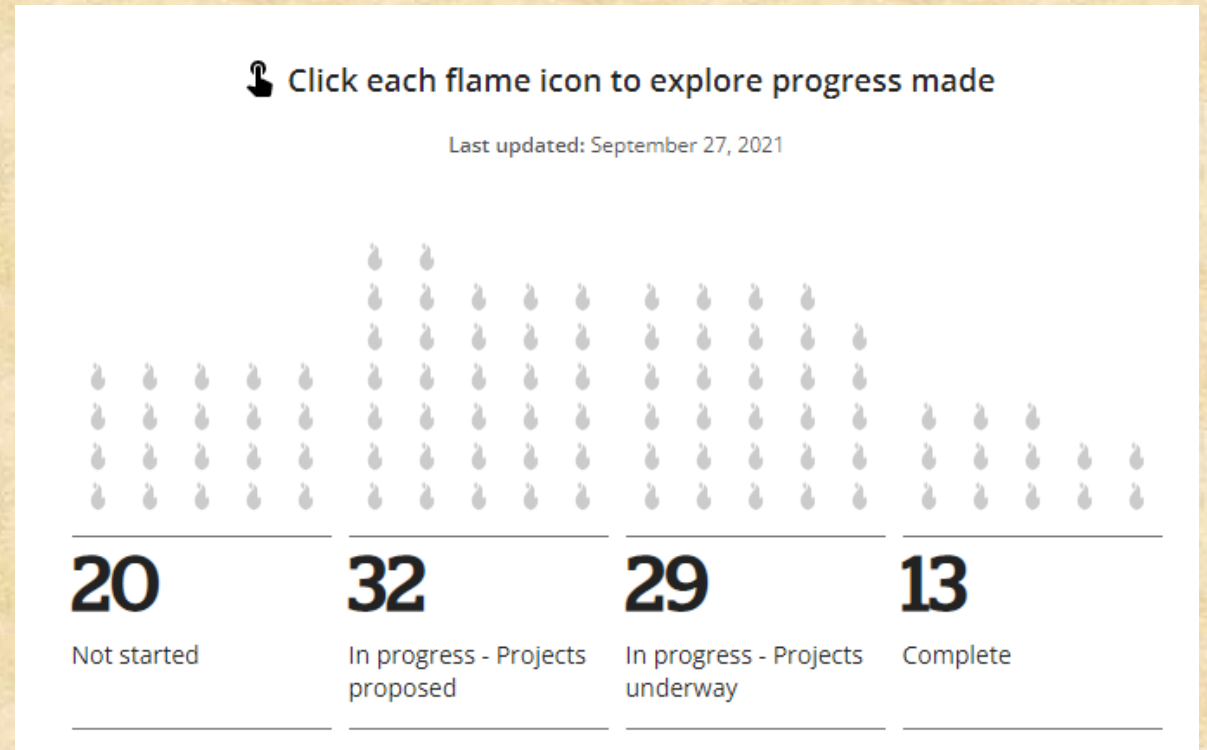
<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/remains-of-215-children-found-at-former-residential-school-in-british-columbia-574512722.html#&gid=null&pid=1>





# Commissions, Inquiries, etc...

- Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996)
- TRC (2015): 94 Calls to Action
- Viens Commission (2019): 142 Recommendations
  - 68 are being worked on
- MMIWG Inquiry (2020): 231 Calls for Justice



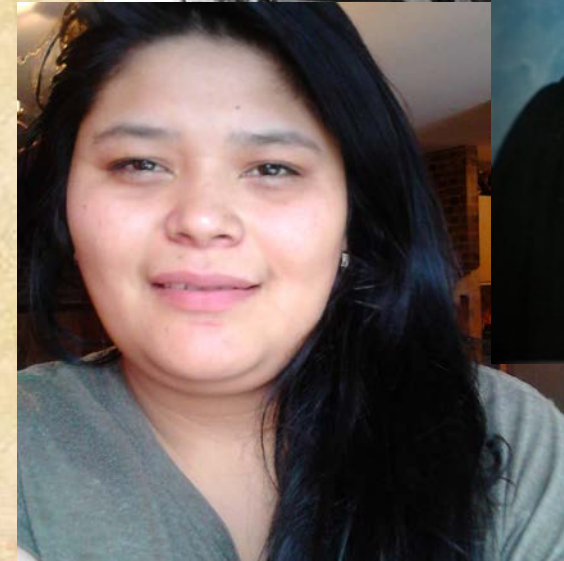
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform-single/beyond-94??&cta=&cta=23>





# Examples:

- Brian Sinclair (2008): Homeless double amputee, sat in an emergency room in Winnipeg for 36 hours and died because staff thought he was drunk.
- Kimberly Gloade (2016): Turned away from Montreal hospital because she didn't have a RAMQ card.
- Joyce Echaquan (2020): Died in Joliette hospital as staff shouted racist slurs.
- BC Emergency Hospital staff allegedly betting on blood alcohol levels of Indigenous patients (2020)

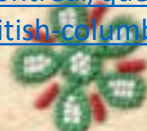


<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-brian-sinclair-report-1.4295996>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/mi-kmaq-woman-s-death-after-leaving-muhc-without-treatment-highlights-systemic-problem-doctors-say-1.4565177>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-atikamekw-joliette-1.5743449>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/racism-in-bc-healthcare-health-minister-adrian-dix-1.5619245>





PROXIMAL

INTERMEDIATE

DISTAL

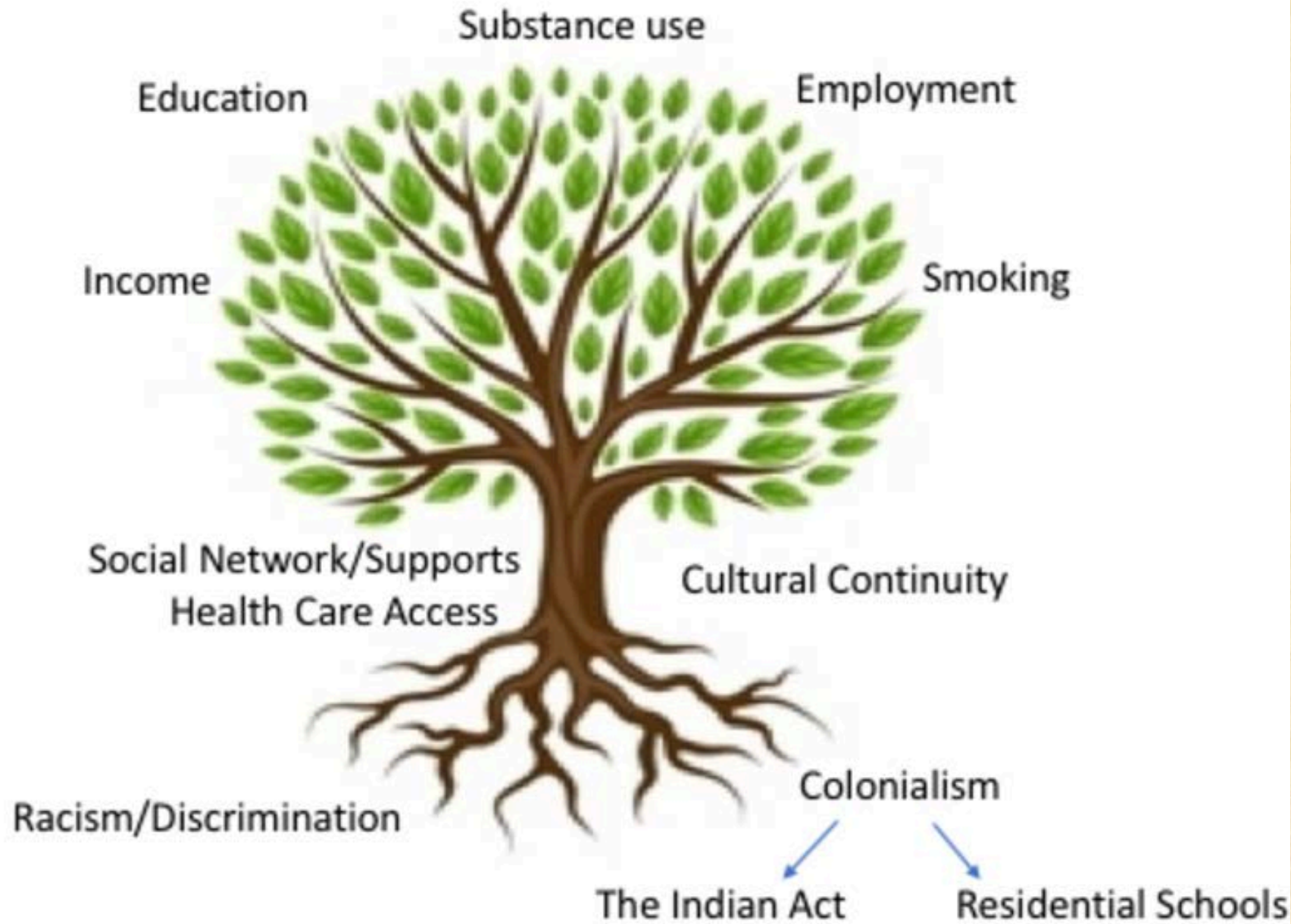
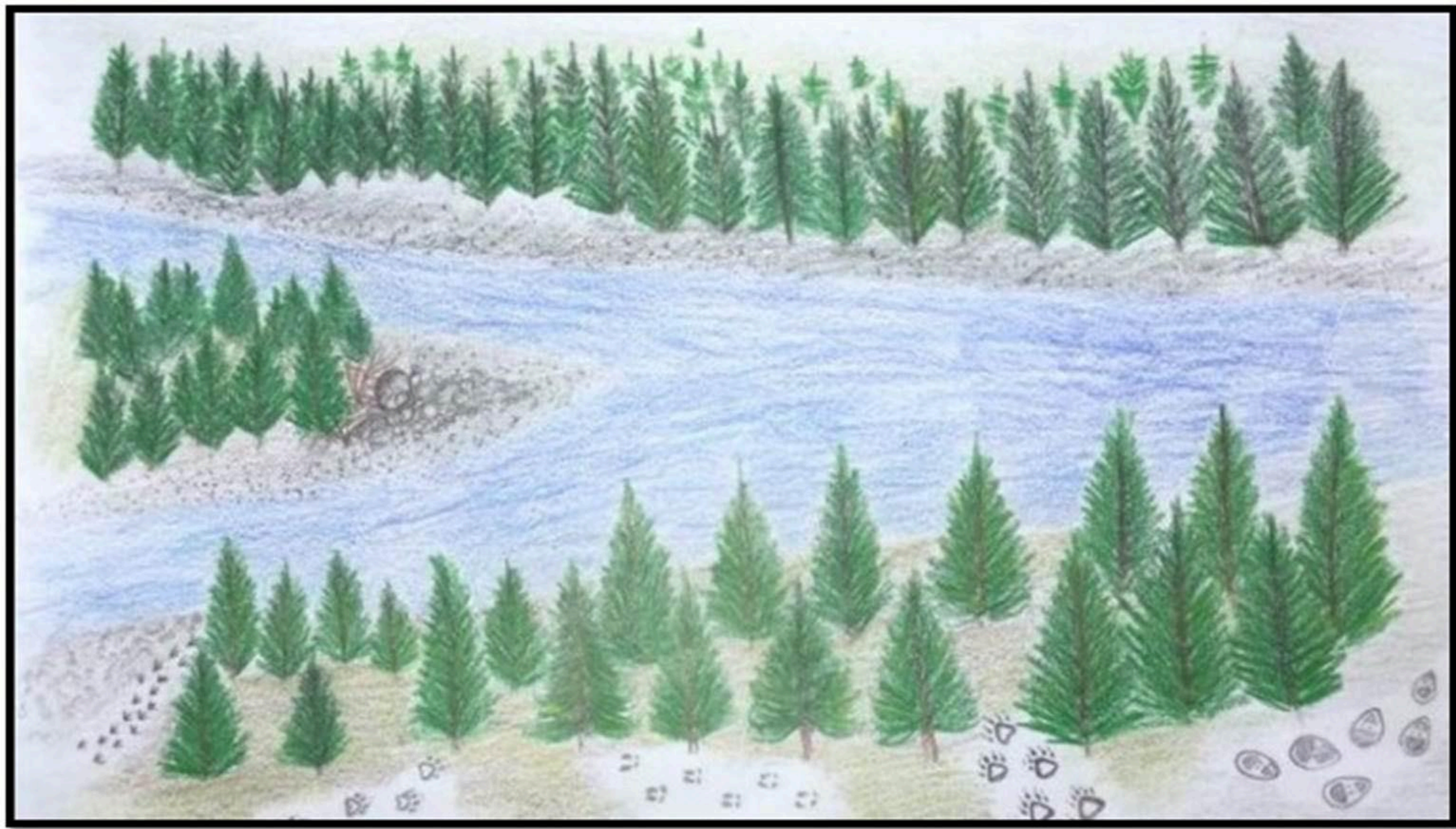


Image Credit: Stephanie McConkey, *The Indigenous Determinants of Health as Predictors for Diabetes and Unmet Health Needs Among Urban Indigenous People: A Respondent-Driven Sampling Study in Toronto, Ontario* The University of Western Ontario, 2018) [unpublished], fig 1.









# Reconciliation

- Learn the true history, acknowledge the past.
  - Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report and Calls to Action
  - Viens Commission Report
  - MMIWG Report
  - Coroner's Report into the death of Joyce Echaquan.
- Be aware of the ongoing realities that impact Indigenous people today.
  - Jordan's Principle
  - Joyce's Principle
- Recognize strengths and experiences of people and your place in the community.







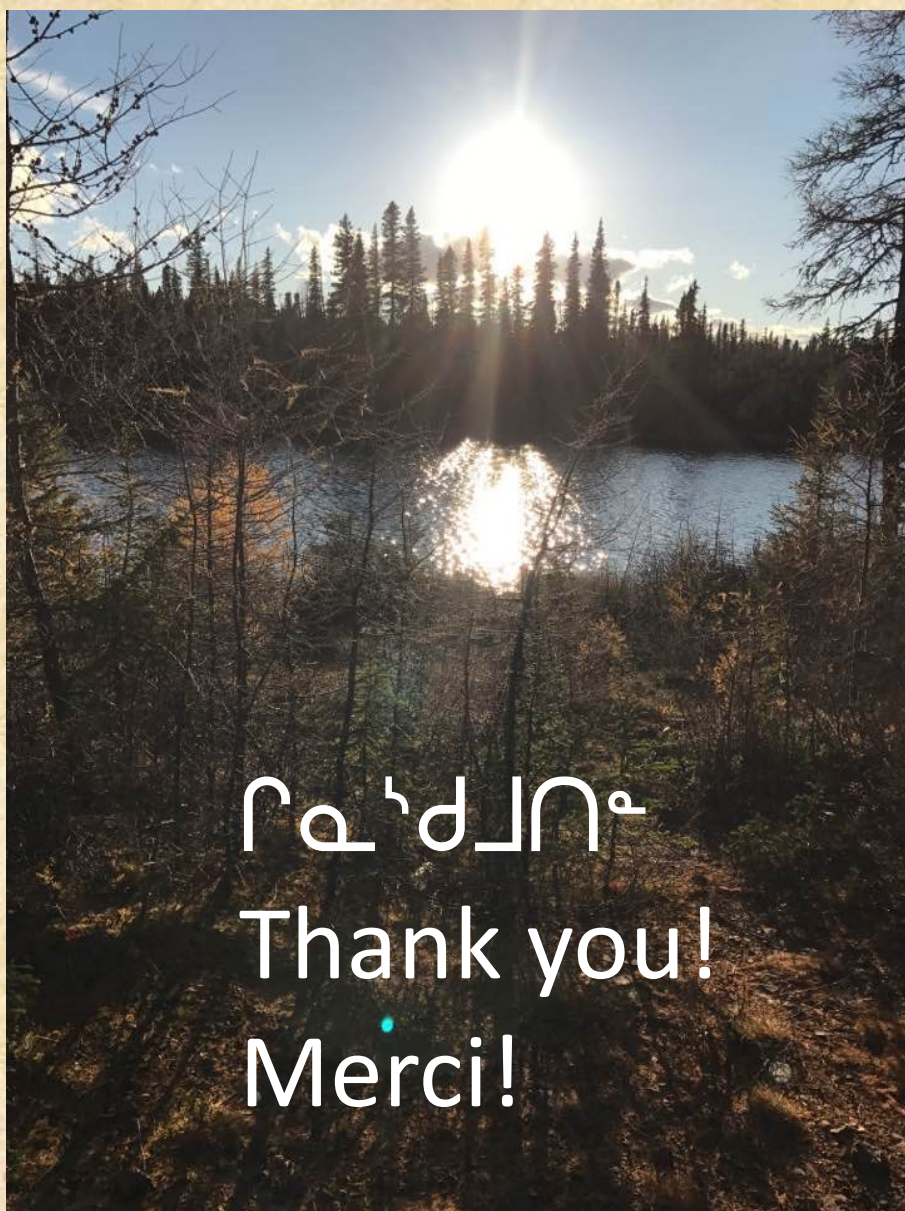


# Question for Small Groups

As a clinician, researcher, academic what will you do to ensure the advancement of the Calls To Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?







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Thank you!  
Merci!



# Other references

- Documentary: We Were Children (NFB, Amazon Video)
- University of Alberta: MOOC Indigenous Canada <https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html>
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission <http://www.trc.ca/>
- Concordia University Land Acknowledgement: <https://www.concordia.ca/indigenous/resources/territorial-acknowledgement.html>
- The Northern and Arctic Studies Portal <https://inq.ulaval.ca/en/tools/atiku>
- Jordan's Principle <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1568396042341/1568396159824>
- Joyce's Principle <https://principedejoyce.com/en/index>
- Non Insured Health Benefits Program <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1572537161086/1572537234517>

