

FAMILY UPDATE



September 30, 2021

A day to consider truth and reconciliation

Today is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Misericordia is recognizing the day with a variety of activities and sharing learning materials.

Please find below the President & CEO message sent to our staff this morning.

What does truth and reconciliation mean to you? This is a question all of us can consider, not only on each September 30 for our National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, but every day.

I see truth and reconciliation as an ongoing journey we are all part of. It is a journey with a spirit and intent to build respectful relationships and greater understanding in all things we do.

It is a journey of learning. The history of Canada's Indian Residential School System is a living history. The harms and trauma stemming from these schools did not end when the last school closed in 1996—they continue to profoundly affect the survivors and their family members.

It is a journey of actions. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada issued 94 Calls to Action to advance reconciliation—something all Canadians can act on and advocate for—as well as multiple reports on residential schools. These reports, and many other learning resources, are available to everyone through the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation website at nctr.ca.

Reconciliation is also a journey of individual relationships. At Misericordia Health Centre we can all practice reconciliation through the care we provide as we create relationships built on our values of caring, respect and trust. The more we understand Indigenous history and cultures, the more we connect, and the more authentic compassion we bring with us.

To help MHC staff consider their own reconciliation journey on this day we have created a space in our auditorium to learn about and reflect on residential schools. This space includes opportunities to share your own thoughts about reconciliation. Spiritual Health is also distributing orange ribbons, and we will ask staff to observe moments of silence during our regular prayer and announcement times of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to honour survivors, their families, and the thousands of children who lost their lives at residential schools.

Other resources and opportunities:

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Indigenous Health offers Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Safety Training for service providers who work directly or indirectly with Indigenous people in Manitoba. Find out more [here](#).

If, as part of your personal reconciliation journey, you wish to learn more about Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada from an Indigenous perspective, the University of Alberta offers a free online course called Indigenous Canada. You can enroll [here](#).

Other important resources to explore include [The Witness Blanket](#), [Legacy of Hope Foundation](#), and [Reconciliation Canada](#).

A **National Residential School Crisis Line** has been set up to provide support to former students. This 24-Hour Crisis Line can be accessed at 1-866-925-4419.

I hope you all take time on this inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to not only recognize and commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools, but to begin your own journey as you consider what truth and reconciliation mean to you and how you can participate.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Dekeyster, President and CEO