

STREAMS OF JUSTICE

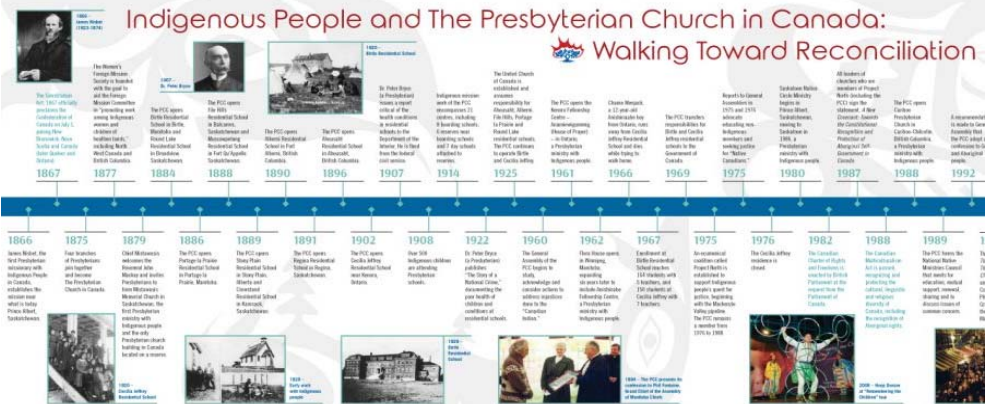
Let justice flow down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24)

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Canada 150+ and the next 150 years



A young Presbyterian asked: "how can I celebrate Canada's 150th birthday if that also means that it is 150 years (or more) of colonization?" It is a question neither easily asked, nor answered. Part of that answer is about understanding the past and seeing how it has contributed to the present.

This poster timeline is a summary of 150 years of relationships between our church and Indigenous people. It includes many painful parts of our history such as the residential schools system and its intergenerational legacy. It also shines light on parts of our church's history that has built up reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, such as the church's participation in the Aboriginal Rights Coalition, and the church leaders' statement *A New Covenant, Towards the Constitutional Recognition and Protection of Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada*. Walking toward reconciliation involves acknowledging the things that harm while recognizing and supporting the things that heal. So we hold up, in truth, with courage, our common history with Indigenous people in Canada.

The question from the young Presbyterian still stands: how do we mark Canada's 150th and honour Indigenous people? We begin by listening to Indigenous peoples, learning from them, and asking how we can walk together. We can also mark the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (which came into force in 2007). Participate in the *Let Justice Roll* campaign by writing to or meeting with your Member of Parliament and tell them you support the implementation of the UN Declaration into Canadian law. Envision the next 150 years with the UN Declaration as the framework for reconciliation, and the next years on this timeline will continue to build hope and new relationships. Thank you for your support.



Justice Ministries

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

50 Wynford Drive,

Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

1-800-619-7301

presbyterian.ca/justice

presbyterian.ca/healing

Walking Together—Youth gathering at Camp Kannawin, AB



On May 5-6, twenty-five teenagers and young adults from across Alberta gathered at Camp Kannawin for "Walking Together: A Weekend of Healing and Reconciliation." Participants experienced the Blanket Exercise, heard from Shirley Dufour (a grief and recovery specialist and Survivor of Birtle Residential School) and explored how young people can engage in reconciliation. The following are reflections from two participants: Francois Marais (13; Faith PC, Fort McMurray) and Zoë Say (27; Grace PC, Calgary).

Francois Marais

What I learned filled me with both a heavy burden and small rays of hope. Canada is not particularly willing to talk about its mistakes. Hearing from a residential school Survivor drove home the deep impact it had on her life. Now, it feels less like a side note in a textbook. It became real to me. Shirley shared the horrible truths, shed light on atrocities and then told us about her unbelievable journey of astounding forgiveness. This spoke of her faith, the love of her Creator, her resilience and her tenacity to find healing. She first embarked on this ongoing journey when she went to school to become a social worker. She is a strong woman and a true survivor who wants to help others to heal. Shirley is genuine in her hope for equality. Hearing her story called me to action.

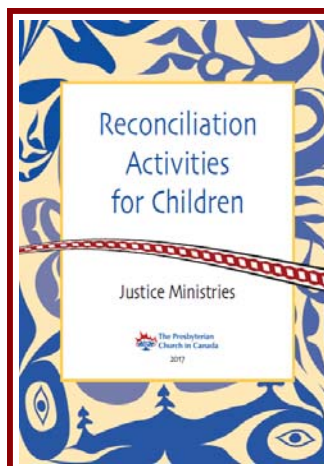
Zoë Say

The Bible story of the hemorrhaging woman* came alive to me recently in a workshop with the Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence (Professor of Preaching, Columbia Theological Seminary), as she used verbs to explore the story: lengthy suffering, had endured, had spent [all she had], came, touched, said, felt, was healed, fell down and told [the whole truth].

I see parallels between the hemorrhaging woman's and Shirley's stories. We heard Shirley's experience in the Presbyterian-run Birtle Residential School; her years of suffering, her journey of healing, recovery and sharing her truth. In both stories, sharing their whole truth is significant. A pivotal moment in Shirley's healing journey was when a United Church congregation welcomed her and provided a space to start sharing her story. Today, she facilitates a grief and trauma recovery group for residential school Survivors run out of the church.

Shirley's incredible story of hope and healing exemplifies what reconciliation means. It is walking together with our neighbours, listening and welcoming people into our communities just as they are and providing a space to share their whole truth, broken parts and whole parts. What would our church communities look like if more of us did this?

**Mark 5:25-35, Matthew 9:20-22, Luke 8:43-48*



Reconciliation Activities for Children is coming soon!

This resource has activities for children ages 5-8. It may be used in Vacation Bible School, Sunday school or in junior youth groups.

Contact Carragh Erhardt
cerhardt@presbyterian.ca
for a digital version.

Indigenous Rights Conference in Montreal

This one day conference took place Saturday, May 20 in Montreal at Westmount High School. This gathering brought together 60 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people from a number of different faith backgrounds to reflect on how we can live out the articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

St. Andrew and St. Paul Associate Minister Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney opened proceedings with an interfaith prayer. Kahnawake Elder Joseph Deom offered blessings and welcome to traditional Mohawk Territory. Christine Jamieson, Concordia University Theology Professor, whose father is from the Boothroyd Interior Salish community in British Columbia, described "Indigenous thought and practice – identities & realities." Elder Kenneth Deer, who participated in the drafting of the UN Declaration, outlined the Declaration's history, importance and impact.

Lunch was catered by the Kahnawake caterer Kwe Kwe Gourmet. Over lunch participants reflected on the Declaration's preamble clauses. Reflections were recorded.

Justice Canada Legal Counsel to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada staff Liliana Cerretti talked about the complexities of implementing the UN Indigenous Declaration in Canadian law.

Participants discussed articles of the Declaration that have practical actions for churches and other faith groups. The day closed with statements from Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United church leaders, who discussed their church's commitments to reconciliation.

Participants' response to the conference was overwhelmingly positive. Conference organizers collated ideas and discussion points and shared them with participants, including actions participants will take in the coming months.

Keith Randall, St Andrew and St Paul PC, Montreal and member of the Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee.

Let Justice Roll!

Ten years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This was a great achievement for the 370 million Indigenous peoples around the world but there is still much to be done in order for governments and institutions to implement the UN Declaration.

Let Justice Roll is collaborative ecumenical initiative involving KAIROS, Mennonite Church Canada (Indigenous Relations) and the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada and Canadian Baptist Ministries to support the implementation of the UN Declaration in Canada. There is currently a Private Member's Bill (Bill C -262) which outlines a legislative framework for the Government of Canada to implement the UN Declaration. In addition, the Government of Canada has recently established a Working Group of Cabinet Ministers to review the UN Declaration in light of Canada's laws. There are two ways you can be involved in this initiative:

- Meet with your Member of Parliament to discuss the UN Declaration and to seek his or her support for the implementation of the Declaration.
- Make a banner to display outside your congregation.

A resource *Let Justice Roll* is available on KAIROS' web site. It includes a theological reflection; frequently asked



People arrive on Parliament Hill with banners during the KAIROS Roll with the Declaration Event in 2011.

questions about the UN Declaration; planning a meeting with your MP and making a banner in support of the UN Declaration: https://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/woocommerce_uploads/2017/03/Let-Justice-Roll.pdf

Campaign update and *Let Justice Roll* bulletin inserts can be downloaded here <https://www.kairoscanada.org/let-justice-roll-campaign-update-april-2017>

Government of Canada seeks input from Canadians for poverty reduction plan

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" MT 25:44

Poverty preys on one in seven Canadians (*On the Margins: A Glimpse of Poverty in Canada, CPJ, October 2015*). Often, those who struggle are invisible. There are too many negative stereotypes about poverty. It is not a choice.

Churches support people on low income with drop in centres, meal programs, food banks and social housing programs. These are important and necessary ministries that make a difference to the people who are helped by them. Biblical justice calls us to consider systemic responses even as we continue our community responses. The Government of Canada (GOC) is preparing a national strategy for poverty reduction. Until the end of June, the GOC is consulting with Canadians about what the strategy should include. Write to the Government of Canada. This is an invitation to participate in public policy. Have your say.

www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/consultation-poverty.html

In 2007 the General Assembly adopted a report from Justice Ministries on poverty that pointed to the growing gap between rich and poor Canadians. Growing gaps are indicators of deteriorating community health. The wider the gap, the less healthy and the more untrusting a society is. A national strategy for poverty reduction should include: a living wage for all people in Canada; a national social housing strategy; and targets and a timeline to reduce poverty. The 2007 report called for a national poverty reduction plan. You can support this work by participating in the Government of Canada's public consultation.

Citizens for Public Justice is a faith-based coalition for justice in Canada. Support their Dignity for All campaign. cpj.ca/poverty/action. Write to your MP. Inform your MP how your church ministers to low income people. Encourage them to support Dignity for All, and support a national poverty reduction strategy.

New President at the Church Council on Justice and Corrections

Rebecca Bromwich represents The Presbyterian Church in Canada on the Church Council on Justice and Corrections' board of directors. She has served as Treasurer for several years. Ms. Bromwich was recently elected President and will begin her two year appointment in September this year. Ms. Bromwich is a part-time member

of faculty at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law. She is also Policy Counsel with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. Ms. Bromwich attends St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. For information on the Church Council on Justice and Corrections please visit www.ccjc.ca

Update from Carragh Erhardt, H&R program assistant

Since September 2016 I have processed fifteen applications to the Healing and Reconciliation Seed Fund, led eight Blanket Exercise workshops (four with young people), coordinated five newsletters, spent two weeks in Taiwan visiting church partners, and particularly Indigenous people, worked on two new resources- a timeline of the last 150 years of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and a resource outlining five activities for children and reconciliation. I organized the first Presbyterian local leaders training for teens and young adults which took place May 5-6 at Camp

Kannawin in Sylvan Lake AB. Thinking about the past months, I approach the coming year with anticipation. I continue to find hope in learning about ways that relationships are developing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. There is also hope in the number of Presbyterians who seek out opportunities to learn through participating in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise or visiting their local Friendship Centre. The growing desire I see among Presbyterians to learn more about the shared history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada is a step in the right direction.