



# The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) final report shone a light on Canada's residential school system, a dark chapter in our history with lasting impacts still felt by Indigenous people today. Ontario is working with Indigenous partners to address the legacy of residential schools, close gaps and remove barriers, create a culturally relevant and responsive justice system, support Indigenous culture, and reconcile relationships with Indigenous peoples. True reconciliation goes beyond the TRC's 'Calls to Action'. The Province will continue to look to Indigenous partners for guidance and leadership.

Ontario plans to invest in programs and actions focused on reconciliation, which will be developed and evaluated in close partnership with Indigenous partners.

## Understanding the Legacy of Residential Schools

- Work with Indigenous partners to establish a **commemorative monument** in Toronto — dedicated to residential school survivors — as a site of learning, healing and reconciliation.
- Support restoration of the **Mohawk Institute Residential School** and work with Indigenous partners to develop an interpretation centre.
- Identify **death records** of “lost children” who attended residential schools and contribute to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation archives, **locate burial sites** and repatriate remains when requested and/or provide memorial ceremonies and markers.
- Work to waive fees for Indigenous people seeking to **reclaim traditional names, and honour Indigenous traditions by accommodating the use of single names.**
- Address systemic racism and discrimination directed against Indigenous peoples through an **Indigenous-Informed Anti-Racism Strategy.**

## Closing Gaps and Removing Barriers

- Establish up to six **new or expanded Indigenous Mental Health & Addictions Treatment and Healing Centres.**
- Help stop the cycle of intergenerational trauma by investing in **mental health and wellness programs.**
- Increase the number of licensed child care spaces and **culturally relevant programming** off-reserve.
- Expand **child and family programs** on-reserve and, through Indigenous and federal partners, make supports available in more communities.
- Through **recreation-based** programming, work with remote high-need Indigenous communities to identify community priorities for children, youth and families.
- Support **culturally based suicide prevention strategies** for children and youth, and provide crisis intervention, as needed.
- Explore **reclassifying First Nations/federally operated schools** to enhance collaboration between the provincially funded education system and First Nation schools.
- Develop an **action plan for responding to social emergencies** in Northern First Nation communities.



### Creating a Culturally Relevant and Responsive Justice System

- Create **more victim services programs** for Indigenous peoples.
- Establish an **Indigenous Language Courts pilot project** to help break down language barriers and increase access to justice.
- Increase funding to **Community Justice Programs** that focus on healing and cultural restoration.
- Develop **culturally appropriate programs**, including community supervision, to provide support to Indigenous people accused of crime.
- Host a **Gladue summit** to identify service gaps in the justice system.
- Increase the number of **Gladue report writers and Gladue aftercare workers**.
- **Enhance healing services and cultural supports** for Indigenous inmates in custody and offenders under community supervision.

### Supporting Indigenous Culture

- Develop an **Indigenous Cultural Revitalization Fund** that would support cultural activities and programming in Indigenous communities, including on-reserve and in urban centres.

- Host an **Indigenous languages symposium** with Indigenous partners to review current programs, and to identify community priorities and supports needed for Indigenous languages.
- Support **youth cultural camps** in Indigenous communities.
- Create a **traditional medicine garden** on government-owned property in Toronto.

### Reconciling Relationships with Indigenous Peoples

- **Lead by example** and take active steps to apply a model of reconciliation on a daily basis.
- Change the name of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to the **Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**.
- **Reflect the term 'Indigenous'** in government ministries and programs, where appropriate.
- **Discourage the use of names that are considered offensive** to Indigenous people in organizations funded by the government.
- Engage with Indigenous partners on approaches to enhance participation in the resource sector by improving the way **resource benefits** are shared.
- Work with the federal government to address the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

[Ontario.ca/Reconciliation](https://Ontario.ca/Reconciliation)