

## SUMMARY OF TRC – RELATED RECONCILIATION CANADA ACTIVITIES

As part of the Board's direction to engage in activities surrounding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) closing ceremonies, Reconciliation Canada (RC) took part in a variety of initiatives in Ottawa and Vancouver. These included:

- 1) The *Walk for Reconciliation*;
- 2) *Inspiring Reconciliation* panel;
- 3) *Reconciliation Matters: Community Street Fair & Ecumenical Reconciliation Service*
- 4) *Creating A New Way Forward: Reflections on the TRCs Final Report & Recommendations*

### ***Walk for Reconciliation – Ottawa***

The walk symbolized a powerful statement towards healing and reconciliation. The event brought together approximately 10,000 participants, a majority of which included Indian Residential School Survivors and their families. With Anglican Healing Fund's contribution, to bus transportation, RC was able to increase the numbers of survivors attending the walk. We took a step further to support survivors, by designing and distributing 300 red '*Namwayut*' t-shirts to Survivors. They were deeply moved by our gesture.

As a recognition of our role at the TRC closing events, Reconciliation Canada received substantial media coverage. Chief Joseph took part in more than 20 interviews in less than a week. With the walk, panel and media presence, RC has achieved our goal of raising public awareness of our shared history and importance of reconciliation.

Please see a few examples:

- 1) CBC News: *Walk for reconciliation draws thousands to downtown Ottawa* (May 31, 2015): <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/walk-for-reconciliation-draws-thousands-to-downtown-ottawa-1.3094606>
- 2) CTV News: *Residential school survivors, supporters march in solidarity through Ottawa* (May 31, 2015): <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/residential-school-survivors-supporters-march-in-solidarity-through-ottawa-1.2399749>
- 3) CBC News: *Truth and reconciliation: Looking back on a landmark week for Canada* (June 6, 2015): <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/truth-and-reconciliation-looking-back-on-a-landmark-week-for-canada-1.3102956>

**Panel: *Inspiring Reconciliation* – Ottawa**

*Inspiring Reconciliation: Creating a New Way Forward* began with a welcome by local elder, Albert Dumont, who set a very respectful and aspirational tone for the event. Reconciliation Canada welcomed four distinguished leaders to sit on the panel with Chief Robert Joseph. Each panelist shared their respective wisdom, experience and knowledge in a thoughtful and heart-felt manner.

The room was filled with 650 participants, while 50,000 people watched the panel via live broadcast. These numbers indicate that the panelists and their messages for the future of healing and reconciliation generated significant interest. Bilingual simultaneous translation significantly contributed to the success of this event.

***Reconciliation Matters: Community Street Fair & Ecumenical Reconciliation Service* – Vancouver**

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the ecumenical community consisting of the Vancouver Anglican, United, Presbyterian, Baptist and Roman Catholic churches in partnership with the City of Vancouver and Reconciliation Canada, organized a day of bearing witness to the closing TRC ceremonies in Ottawa. The event started with, a first of its kind, ecumenical service where Christians from across the faith came together to confess to centuries of harm committed against Canada's Aboriginal population.

Also in the service, children from the participating churches were gathered in front of the choir as youth ministers told the story of colonization and its impacts on Aboriginal communities today. Doug White of Vancouver Island University also gave a very moving speech on the importance of reconciliation and need for social change.

Following the service, a community street fair was held where the congregations as well as many from the public came together to commemorate the legacy of residential schools and share in awareness building and reflection.

Example of Media Coverage:

The Province: *Vancouver Church service leads confession for role of Christians in residential schools nightmare* (May 31, 2015)

<http://www.theprovince.com/life/Church+service+acknowledges+role+Christian+denominations+residential+schools+nightmare/11097812/story.html>

**Panel: *Creating A New Way Forward: Reflections on the TRCs Final Report & Recommendations* – Vancouver**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vancouverites were invited to join Survivors, Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada released the Final Report Findings and Recommendations.

Reconciliation Canada, along with The Vancouver Coordinating Committee for TRC Closing Events, welcomed seven panelists to reflect on the closing of the TRC and the possibilities moving forward.

The auditorium at SFU Woodward's was filled with approximately 350 people representing students, survivors, corporations, industry, government and unions. There was also a great deal of media presence as the panelists were distinguished in their respective fields and areas of interest.

Example of Media Coverage:

The Vancouver Sun: *Vancouver audience cheers Truth and Reconciliation report on residential schools*

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/Vancouver+audience+cheers+Truth+Reconciliation+report+residential+schools/11102303/story.html>

## RC Social Media Report for TRC Events - May 18<sup>th</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup>

### Twitter

- Between May 18 and June 5, the Reconciliation Canada **Twitter profile received 223 new followers**. This rate of growth is around twice that of last month – and **ten times the average growth rate** in the past year.
- **Mentions on Twitter were up to 153 from 30** in the same period last month.
- **Tweet impressions were up 903%** on the same period last month. In particular, there was a large spike in the number of tweet impressions between May 31 and June 3.

### Facebook

- Between May 18 and June 5, the Reconciliation Canada Facebook page received **148 new likes**. This **rate of growth is around five times** that of last month. In particular, there was a large spike in new followers between May 31 and June 3.
- The **Reach of posts was three times higher** than the page's average for the same period last month. This is around six times higher than the page's average for the past year.