



News and Resources: October 2024 Joint Truth and Reconciliation Working Group



The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation: A Key Resource for Allies

See [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

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NCTR's Residential School History & Legacy 101 webinar walks you through the truth of residential schools, outlines the impacts still felt today, and explains why we need reconciliation. Interested in learning more? Register for the session on October 15 here: <https://umanitoba.zoom.us/j/91782820000> and check the website regularly for other resources and events.



Learn About Some North American Women Indigenous Leaders

Over the centuries, a number of women's names have been spoken with great respect by the people. Some of these names may be familiar beyond the famous Algonquian Pocahontas and Mary – the “Empress of Creek Nation”. Click here to learn more:

https://click.convertkit-mail.com/5qu8g8g8vkh8udex6df7u94dwl44szlk9legwoenvem8kv250lxxr063v9zngkxx0mxom95g7qz064owx6e2dnw0qn5pxg68383wqe8r52vg9np98lvz76m4ow/7qh7h8ho20wqq6c9/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucG93d293cy5jb20vbmF0aXZlLWFtZXJpY2FuLXdvbWVudWxlyWRlci8_bGN0Zz1vMzQzNDN3cA==



Watch Miniseries *The Knowing* on CBC GEM

Makwa Creative, HarperCollinsCanada and CBC bring Tanya Talaga's deeply personal and piercing story, **THE KNOWING**, to audiences everywhere this fall. Journalist, filmmaker, and award-winning Anishinaabe author, Tanya Talaga, is on a quest to find the truth of what happened to the women in her maternal family, revealing a story intertwined with Canada's Indian Residential School system. Through her own unique lens, Talaga's multi-platform narrative unfolds the impact of centuries-long oppression that continues to reverberate in Indigenous communities today.

What began with her mother's appeal for Talaga to use her investigative reporting skills to find out what happened to her great-grandmother, grew into a book that uniquely unravels Canadian history. The discovery of rare visual archives and personal stories of Survivors she meets, help drive the narrative and events surrounding the historic Papal apology in Rome and in Canada.

"While researching and writing *The Knowing*, the book, I realized we needed to visually document the rapid events unfolding around us - from my mother's maternal family's story to the first anniversary of the finding of *Le Estcwicwéy*, the missing, two years ago in Kamloops B.C.," said Talaga. "Makwa Creative, my production company, jumped on the chance, grabbing cameras and running to document this epic story."



One Day's Pay – Truth Then Reconciliation

A small group of friends, both settlers and immigrants wanted to do more than reflect on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - we wanted to act. We knew we were not alone. We started a One Day's Pay campaign to donate to Indigenous non-profits across the country. Please join us in [giving one day's pay](#) to Wapna'kikewi'skwaq (Women of First Light) and invite others to do the same!



Native American Documentary *Reservation Redemption* Highlights Cultural Healing and Prison Reform



Filmmakers Brenda Fisher (Yakama by Descent) and Blake Pickens (Chickasaw) have teamed up to create *Reservation Redemption*, a film that delves into the over-incarceration of Native Americans, specifically in Washington State. This project not only tells a powerful story but also emphasizes the role of culture and spiritual healing in addressing systemic challenges faced by Native people. The documentary follows the journey of Chief Marchand Rice (Colville), a man sentenced to life in prison as a teenager for murder. What makes his story remarkable is the transformation he underwent during his time in prison.

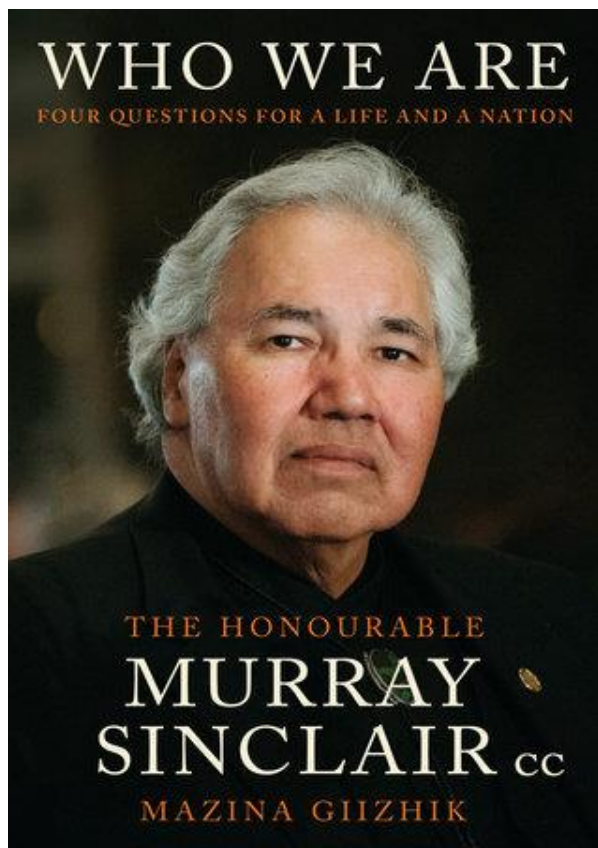


Which word do you prefer?

Various authors and groups are searching for the best vocabulary to talk about the path to a new relationship between settlers and Indigenous peoples. Which term do you prefer and why: reconciliation or repair or rebalance or ??? Send us your thoughts so we can share them in our next issue.



New Book by Murray Sinclair



Judge, senator, and activist. Father, grandfather, and friend. This is Murray Sinclair's story—and the story of a nation—in his own words, an oral history that forgoes the trappings of the traditional written memoir to center Indigenous ways of knowledge and storytelling. As Canada moves forward into the future of reconciliation, one of its greatest leaders guides us to ask the most important and difficult question we can ask of ourselves: Who are we?

For decades, Senator Sinclair has fearlessly educated Canadians about the painful truths of our history. He was the first Indigenous judge in Manitoba, and only the second Indigenous judge in Canadian history. He was the Chair of the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission and remains one of the foremost voices on Reconciliation. And now, for the first time, he will share his full story—and his full vision for our nation—with readers across Canada.

Drawing on Senator Sinclair's unique experiences, and his perspectives regarding Indigenous identity, human rights, and justice in Canada, *Who We Are* examines the roles of history, resistance, and resilience in the pursuit of finding that path forward, and healing the damaged relationship between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. And in doing so, it will reveal Senator Sinclair's life in a new and direct way, exploring how all of these experiences shaped him as an Anishinaabe man, father, and grandfather.

Structured around the four questions that have long shaped Senator Sinclair's thinking and worldview—Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why am I

here? Who am I?—Who We Are will take readers into the story of his remarkable life as never before, while challenging them to embrace an inclusive vision for our shared future. *(From McClelland & Stewart)*



The Legacy of Hope Foundation

The Legacy of Hope Foundation (LHF) is a national Indigenous-led charitable organization whose purposes is to educate and to raise awareness and understanding about the intergenerational impacts of Residential Schools on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. This includes supporting the ongoing healing process of Residential School Survivors all while trying to address injustices and racism in policy, programs and legislation against Indigenous Peoples. Fulfilling this mandate contributes to Reconciliation among generations of Indigenous Peoples, and Non-Indigenous people in Canada. See <https://legacyofhope.ca/> for more information.



Reflection Journal: How NOSM U Improves Health and Well-Being of Indigenous Communities in Rural Ontario by Kip Ip (2024.10.06)

For many years, Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario struggled to access healthcare. Before the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University (NOSM U) was established in 2005, rural and remote areas lacked hospitals, clinics, and regular doctors. People relied on traditional Indigenous medicine, which, while deeply respected, could not always address modern health challenges such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and kidney or liver disease etc. (Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, 2023). Many Indigenous people experienced worsening health conditions due to the absence of professional healthcare services.

With the creation of NOSM U, healthcare access in these underserved regions has improved. The NOSM U Physician Workforce Strategy was developed to bring physicians to rural and remote areas. It focuses on recruiting, retaining, and supporting healthcare professionals, resulting in better health, longer lives, and improved well-being for Indigenous communities (NOSM University, 2023).

Before NOSM U, communities like Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, and Moose Factory faced extreme difficulty in accessing healthcare. These communities are in the James Bay region, home to the Cree and Ojibwe nations (Newbery, 2023). Attawapiskat, with a population of about 1,500, is only accessible by air or winter roads (Newbery, 2023). Kashechewan, home to about 1,900 people, also relies on air travel or winter roads for access (Newbery, 2023). Moose Factory, with about 2,500 people, is located on an island and reached by boat in the summer or ice roads in winter (Newbery, 2023). These regions had no permanent doctors or clinics. Residents had to depend on fly-in healthcare services, where medical professionals visited temporarily and provided limited care. As a result, many conditions went untreated, leading to severe health outcomes (Newbery, 2023).

The NOSM U Physician Workforce Strategy has changed the healthcare landscape in these communities. It places doctors in remote regions like Sandy Lake First Nation, Bearskin Lake, and Sioux Lookout to provide essential services, such as chronic disease management and emergency care (Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, 2023).

NOSM U ensures that its doctors are trained to respect Indigenous traditions, foster trust, and improve the effectiveness of care. However, some Indigenous nations in the Far North, including Pikangikum, Fort Severn, and Peawanuck, remain underserved (Newbery, 2023). Efforts to recruit more doctors to these areas continue, but some communities still lack regular healthcare services (NOSM University, 2023).

Communities in geographically isolated areas such as Pikangikum, Fort Severn, and Peawanuck face ongoing healthcare challenges. These areas are accessible only by air or seasonal roads, making it difficult to receive continuous medical care. The cost and time involved in traveling to larger healthcare centers further complicate the situation, leading to delays in treatment (Newbery, 2023).

Raising awareness about the healthcare services provided by NOSM U is critical. Chiefs and community leaders play a central role in this effort. The Chief, chosen by the community, works alongside band councils and other leaders to promote healthcare services and ensure that their people receive the care they need (NOSM University, 2023).

By encouraging the use of both traditional and modern medicine, Indigenous communities can improve health outcomes and enjoy longer, healthier lives (Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, 2023). In addition to the Physician Workforce Strategy, NOSM U's broader strategic plan, "The Challenge" for 2021-2025, focuses on critical areas to improve healthcare in Northern Ontario: Social Accountability: A commitment to sustainable healthcare. Innovation and Discovery: Advancing clinical and academic excellence. Diversity and Inclusion: Promoting equity and inclusion in healthcare services (NOSM University, 2021). The Physician Workforce Strategy is a key initiative under this plan, aiming to improve physician recruitment in underserved areas (Newbery, 2023).

Dr. Sarah Newbery, Associate Dean of the NOSM U Physician Workforce Strategy, emphasized the need to close the gaps in Northern Ontario's healthcare workforce to ensure equitable access to quality care (Newbery, 2023). As of June 2023, 384 physicians were actively being recruited across Northern Ontario, a marked increase from 364 physicians the year before. The demand for family physicians continues to rise (Newbery, 2023). Working closely with community-based recruiters and hospital partners, NOSM U is focused on ensuring every community has the needed physicians. Despite progress, the demand for doctors, particularly specialists like psychiatrists, rheumatologists, and allergy specialists, remains high (Newbery, 2023).

To address these challenges, the Physician Workforce Strategy includes several initiatives:

- Enhanced Training Programs: Preparing medical students for the realities of rural healthcare (Newbery, 2023).
- Community Engagement: Collaborating with Indigenous communities to tailor healthcare solutions (Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, 2023).
- Retention Incentives: Offering support to encourage doctors to stay in rural areas (Newbery, 2023).
- Telemedicine: Expanding the use of technology to provide care in remote locations (Newbery, 2023).
- Research and Data Collection: Continuously assessing healthcare needs to improve recruitment and retention (Newbery, 2023).

These efforts aim to ensure consistent healthcare for Indigenous and rural populations (NOSM University, 2023).

While NOSM U has made significant strides, some Indigenous nations remain underserved, particularly in remote areas like Pikangikum, Fort Severn, and Peawanuck. These regions face barriers due to their geographic isolation, which continues to limit access to regular medical care (Newbery, 2023). Ontario is working toward fully serving all Indigenous nations, but more efforts are needed (NOSM University, 2023).

Ontario's success in addressing Indigenous healthcare needs is due to several factors:

- Higher Demand: Indigenous populations in Ontario's rural areas have strong healthcare needs, driving government action (Newbery, 2023).
- Strong Indigenous Policy: Ontario has developed effective policies that prioritize Indigenous healthcare, supported by partnerships with Indigenous leaders (Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, 2023).
- Better Funding: Adequate funding has allowed Ontario to implement initiatives like the NOSM U Physician Workforce Strategy effectively (NOSM University, 2023).

By contrast, other provinces like British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan still depend heavily on fly-in healthcare services, which are inconsistent and don't provide long-term care solutions (Newbery, 2023).

Ontario led the way in vaccine distribution for Indigenous communities. The coordination between NOSM U, Indigenous leaders, and the Ontario government allowed for timely vaccine rollouts, reaching a higher proportion of Indigenous people compared to other provinces (Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, 2023).

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine University (NOSM U) and its Physician Workforce Strategy have transformed healthcare access in Northern Ontario. By placing doctors in rural and remote areas, NOSM U has made consistent healthcare available where it was previously absent. This initiative has provided Indigenous people better health, longer lives, and improved well-being.

Although some Indigenous nations remain underserved, particularly in the Far North, Ontario remains committed to expanding access. The NOSM U Physician Workforce Strategy continues to work toward closing these gaps, ensuring that Indigenous communities receive the healthcare they need. This approach, combining traditional medicine with modern healthcare, sets a strong example for other provinces to follow (Newbery, 2023).

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