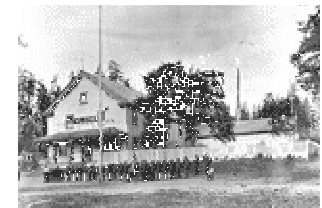




Truth and Reconciliation Commission





Why establish an IRS Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

- To provide those affected an opportunity to tell their stories in a safe and culturally appropriate forum
- To initiate and encourage reconciliation from all parties of interest including former Indian Residential School students, their families, communities, religious entities, government, and the people of Canada
- To complete an accurate and public historical record
- To promote awareness and public education about the IRS system and its impacts on the human dignity of former students





TRC Overview

- Guided by the principles established by the Working Group on Truth and Reconciliation, and Exploratory Dialogues in 1998-1999
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) will report to the Canadian public on what happened in Indian residential schools (IRS) attended by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, and the lasting legacy of these institutions





IRS Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Key Objectives:

- Respectful individual statement-taking
- Facilitate community-driven reconciliation processes
- Support national and regional Commemorative initiatives
- Host seven national events
- Creation of a Research Centre/Archives
- Research and report on impacts of residential school system





Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Guiding Principles

- Accessible
- Representative
- Inclusive
- Voluntary
- Victim Centered
- Public/Transparent
- Educational
- Flexible
- Confidential (if requested by the former student)
- Forward looking in terms of renewing and rebuilding the relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians
- Accountable
- Holistic
- Do No Harm
- Open and Honourable Process
- Just and Fair
- Health and Safety of Participants
- Comprehensive
- Respectful





Administration of Mandate

- The TRC process is separate from the claims settled by the Indian Residential School Agreement
- The Commission's activities are available to all survivors even if they choose to opt out of the compensation package





Aspects of Mandate: Appointment of Commissioners

- Commission consists of one chairperson and two commissioners, to be persons of recognized integrity, stature and respect with consideration given to at least one of the three commissioners being Aboriginal
- Canada will appoint commissioners, based on a pool of candidates nominated by former students, Aboriginal organizations, churches, and government
 - As per the TRC Mandate, the Assembly of First Nations shall be consulted in making the final decision





Aspects of the Mandate: Power & Duties of Commissioners

- Based on the principle of voluntariness, the TRC can not compel individuals to tell their story, nor can the TRC subpoena documents
- However, the Mandate stipulates:
 - The participation of high level government and church officials in the national events and if requested, in community events;
 - That the parties to the Settlement Agreement will be bound by a court order to produce their documents and provide access to their archives
- May refer to the National Administration Committee for determination of disputes





Aspects of the Mandate: Period of Operation

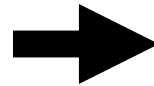


First 3 Months Preparatory Stage:

-Budget
preparations

-Commissioner
appointments

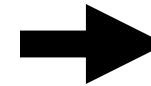
- Essential
organizational
matters



2 years:

- Research and
report on historic
findings and
develop
recommendations

- All 7 National
Events completed
in this time



By the end of 5 Years:

- Community
reconciliation events
and statement taking
completed

- Closing ceremonies

- Research and
Documentation
center established
within this time frame

Notwithstanding these periods of operation, survivors will be permitted to file a personal statement in the archive free of any time limitation



Aspects of the Mandate: Structure & Staffing

- Commissioners will be responsible for providing vision and direction to the Executive Director, and will work with the Executive Director so that the TRC Mandate is fulfilled in an accountable fashion
- Executive Director is the head of the Secretariat, will report to the Commissioners on its operation, and will be responsible for executing the TRC Mandate in line with the Commissioner's vision, with the help of the Secretariat staff
- Secretariat is the main office of the Commission, where the majority of the work will be done
- Regional Liaisons will provide a link between the TRC and communities for the purpose of coordinating national and community events
- Indian Residential School Survivor Committee (IRSSC) will advise the Commission and is made up of 10 representatives from Aboriginal organizations and survivor groups





TRC Organization



IRS Survivor
Committee gives
advice to
Commissioners



IRS Survivor
Committee helps
Executive Director
select Regional
Liaisons



Communities





Aspects of the Mandate: Core Activities of the Secretariat

- Secretariat will be the central agency responsible for the coordination of activities for the Commission, such as:
 - Research;
 - Event organization (national & community);
 - Statement taking/truth-sharing;
 - Obtaining documents;
 - Information management (creation of database);
 - Production of the report; and,
 - Preservation of its records.





Aspects of the Mandate: Access to Information & Budget

- Canada and the churches will provide all relevant documents in their possession for the use of the TRC
- Upon approval of the \$60M budget by the Minister of IRSRC, the Commission will have authority to make decisions on spending within the limits of its Mandate, TB policies, its establishing Order in Council, and budgetary capacity





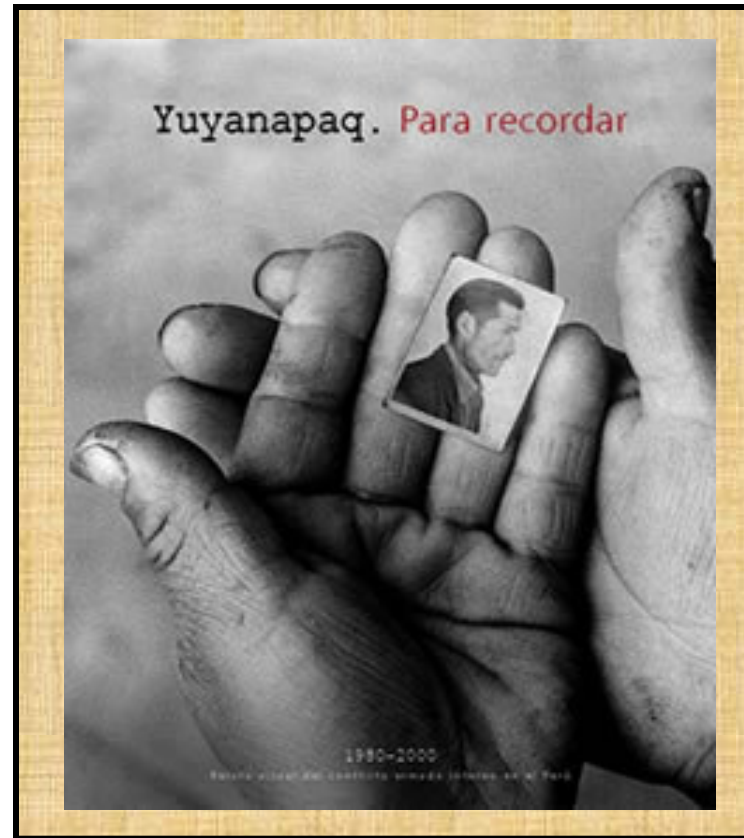
Aspects of the Mandate: Final Report

- Research and report on historic findings and develop recommendations
- Published in the two official languages of Canada and in other Aboriginal languages as determined by the Commissioners
- Government will provide for wider distribution of the report following Commissioners' recommendations





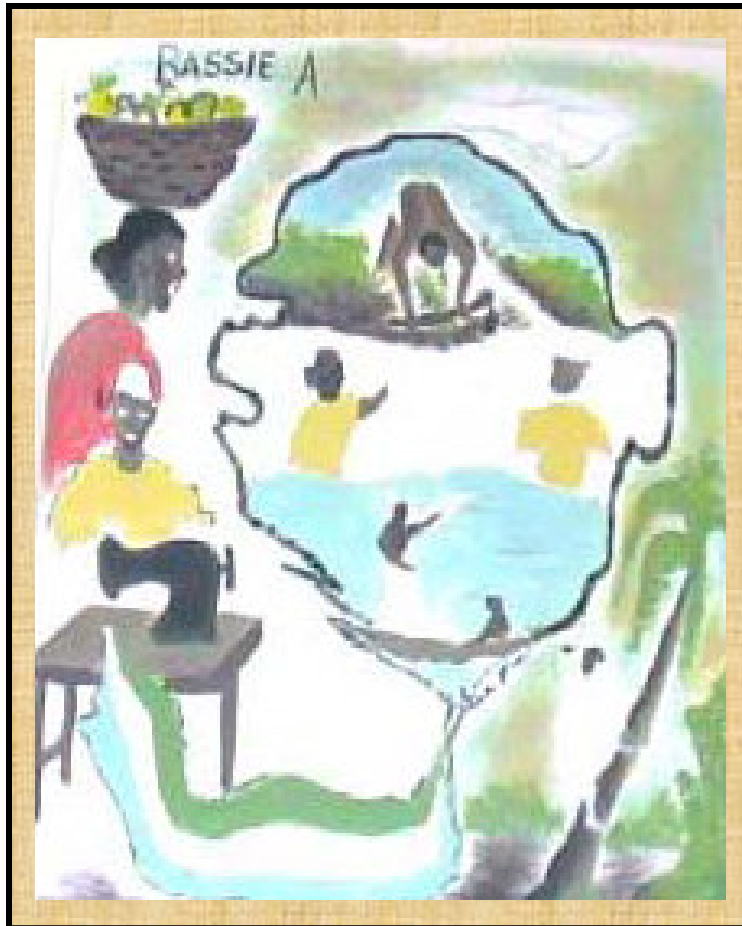
Alternative Presentations



- The Peruvian Commission published a powerful book of photography “Yuyanapaq: Para Recordar” documenting the conflict



Alternative Presentations



- Sierra Leone's commission produced a video version and a 50-page 'child friendly' version of its final report



Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Community Impacts:



- Commission activities may open wounds for people who are not prepared or who are unsupported
- Communities and individuals may not be ready to participate in Commission activities
- Individuals and communities may believe that the Commission will guarantee a changed relationship



Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Community Impacts:

- Communities can design their own reconciliation events in accordance with their values
- Opportunity for participation and involvement
- Strengthen positive healing processes in communities and in Canada to understand the impact of the IRS system





For further information please contact:



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Truth and Reconciliation Commission
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Or visit:

English

http://www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/english/truth_reconciliation_commission.html

French

http://www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/francais/commission_verite_reconciliation.html