

BMC and The TRC: Resources for Further Learning



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada



Mennonite
Church

This (growing) document contains resources that we at BMC might find useful as we continue to consider the ways that we can be involved in responding to God's call for us to reconcile with our Indigenous neighbours.

Online Resources:

1. Commonword Online Resources: A Curated Collection -
<https://www.commonword.ca/Browse/8118>

An extensive collection of material related to Indigenous-Settler Relations that can be purchased, borrowed, and downloaded.

2. Treaty As Sacred Covenant Series (MCEC) -
<https://mcec.ca/treatysacredcovenantvideos>

A series of 8 videos organized by the MCEC Truth & Reconciliation Working Group in collaboration with Mennonite Church Canada's Indigenous-Settler Relations program and Indigenous friends.

3. TRC Website - <https://nctr.ca/about/history-of-the-trc/trc-website/>

An informative website which includes the history of the TRC along with the Calls to Action that were developed out of it.

4. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) -
http://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

This link will take you to the full, 46 article declaration.

5. Tanya Talaga's 2018 Massey Lectures: All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward – <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-2018-cbc-massey-lectures-all-our-relations-finding-the-path-forward-1.4763007>

In her 2018 CBC Massey Lectures series, titled All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward, prize-winning journalist Tanya Talaga (author of Seven Fallen Feathers) explores the legacy of cultural genocide against Indigenous peoples.

Book Recommendations (with description):

1. ***Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision*, by Randy S. Woodley (Zac has a copy)**

Materialism. Greed. Loneliness. A manic pace. Abuse of the natural world. Inequality. Injustice. War. The endemic problems facing America today are staggering. We need change and restoration. But where to begin?

In Shalom and the Community of Creation Randy Woodley offers an answer: learn more about the Native American 'Harmony Way,' a concept that closely parallels biblical shalom. Doing so can bring reconciliation between Euro-Westerners and indigenous peoples, a new connectedness with the Creator and creation, an end to imperial warfare, the ability to live in the moment, justice, restoration -- and a more biblically authentic spirituality. Rooted in redemptive correction, this book calls for true partnership through the co-creation of new theological systems that foster wholeness and peace.

2. ***Rescuing The Gospel From The Cowboys*, by Richard Twiss. (Zac has a copy)**

The history of North America is marred by atrocities committed against Native peoples. Indigenous cultures were erased in the name of Christianity. As a result, to this day few Native Americans are followers of Jesus. However, despite the far-reaching effects of colonialism, some Natives have forged culturally authentic ways to follow the way of Jesus.

In his final work, Richard Twiss provides a contextualized Indigenous expression of the Christian faith among the Native communities of North America.

3. ***Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry: Conversations on Creation, Land Justice, and Life Together*, edited by Steve Heinrichs**

How can North Americans come to terms with the lamentable clash between indigenous and settler cultures, spiritualities, and attitudes toward creation? Showcasing a variety of voices both traditional and Christian, native and non-native, Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry offers up alternative histories, radical theologies, and poetic, life-giving memories that can unsettle our souls and work toward reconciliation.

4. *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization.* Edited by Steve Heinrichs. (IN BMC LIBRARY)

For generations, the Bible has been employed by settler colonial societies as a weapon to dispossess Indigenous and racialized peoples of their lands, cultures, and spiritualities. Given this devastating legacy, many want nothing to do with it. But is it possible for the exploited and their allies to reclaim the Bible from the dominant powers? Can we make it an instrument for justice in the cause of the oppressed? Even a nonviolent weapon toward decolonization?

In Unsettling the Word, over 60 Indigenous and Settler authors come together to wrestle with the Scriptures, re-reading and re-imagining the ancient text for the sake of reparative futures.

5. *Be it Resolved: Anabaptists and Partner Coalitions Advocate for Indigenous Justice,* edited by Steve Heinrichs and Esther Epp-Tiessen (ZAC HAS A COPY)

For over half a century, Anabaptists in Canada have spoken out collectively in support of Indigenous struggles for justice, dignity, and human rights. Through public statements, conference resolutions, parliamentary submissions, and pointed calls to action, Anabaptist bodies—and their ecumenical partners—have expressed a deep and heartfelt response to the Creator’s call to “make things right” between Indigenous and Settler peoples. This anthology brings together over 90 documents that trace the history of Anabaptist commitments to Indigenous justice and decolonization since the mid-1960s.

Local Waterloo Region Initiatives and Beyond:

1. Crow Shield Lodge - <https://www.crowshieldlodge.com/>

Created by Clarence Cachagee, Crow Shield Lodge creates space for meaningful reconciliation between settlers, non-Indigenous people living on Turtle Island, and Indigenous Nations. See this recent article for more detail:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/crow-shield-lodge-healing-education-waterloo-region-1.6260860>

2. Woodland Cultural Centre and Residential School - <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/>

As one of only a handful of residential school buildings left still standing in Canada, the Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School is a physical reminder of the legacy of assimilation imposed upon Indigenous children in Canada.

Canadian Activism and Initiatives:

1. Fairy Creek Blockade - <https://laststandforforests.com/>

“The Fairy Creek Blockade is a volunteer driven, grassroots, non-violent direct action movement...committed to protecting the last stands of globally significant ancient temperate rainforest on Vancouver Island.”