

# TOWARDS TRUTH

Free events in Guelph commemorating Canada's first  
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, 2021

## LEARNING THE TRUTH

During 2021, Canadians have been shocked by the ongoing discovery of over 1,300 unmarked graves of children buried on the grounds of former Residential Schools in Canada. This number is sadly expected to rise as additional sites are surveyed. The grief felt by Indigenous Peoples is beyond measure.

This tragic news has triggered a national reckoning over Canada's legacy of the Indian Residential School system that operated for over 100 years, from the 1870s to the 1990s. Government-funded, they were part of a policy attempting to assimilate Indigenous children into European culture by separating them (often forcefully) from their Indigenous languages and cultures, which also meant separating them from their families and communities, from age 4 to 16. Over time, approximately 150,000 Indigenous children attended the residential schools and around 6,000 of these children disappeared, often without any explanation to their families.

These discoveries have also brought the term **Intergenerational Trauma** into everyday discussions as we continue to understand the long-term effects of the Residential School System and how today's Indigenous People are still suffering the consequences.

View CBC News: The National <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5Os04D-tKg>

With the recent discovery of these unmarked graves, Canadians are reconsidering their personal understanding of Canada's history and its relationship with Turtle Island's (North America's) original inhabitants. Canadians are asking for more information and how they can help with Truth and Reconciliation. **Learning the Truth is step one.**

## TOWARDS TRUTH EVENTS IN GUELPH: SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 3, 2021

The City of Guelph and the Rotary Club of Guelph have put together a number of FREE events under the title **TOWARDS TRUTH** to provide the opportunity to learn more about Residential Schools and their impact. Read on for more details. Limited tickets are available for each event and [reservations](#) are required in advance.

Download the event posters:

- [Speaker Event](#)
- [Film Festival](#)

Download the book details:

- [Towards Braiding](#)

These TOWARDS TRUTH events are happening close to **September 30, 2021** which marks Canada's first **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. This new federal holiday is meant to honour Residential School survivors, their families and Indigenous communities, to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of Residential Schools remains a vital component of the Reconciliation process. Establishing a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada is in direct response to # 80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [94 Calls to Action](#).



More Info

**More information** about the TOWARDS TRUTH events can be found [Here](#) or by scanning this QR Code, or by emailing [rcog.iacomm@gmail.com](mailto:rcog.iacomm@gmail.com)



Tickets

## FREE TICKETS

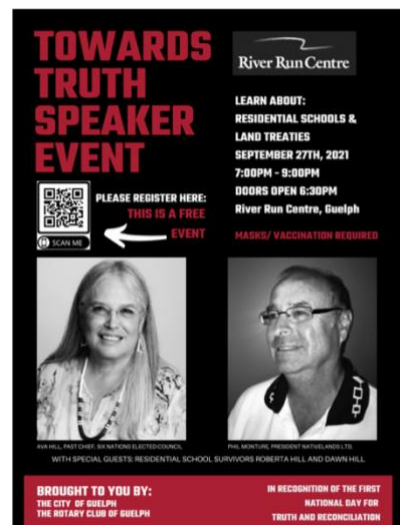
Here are the individual "Towards Truth" events, and how to register for them. For all tickets, [Click Here](#) or scan this Code.

## TOWARDS TRUTH – SPEAKER EVENT

Date: Monday, September 27, 2021  
 Time: 7pm – 9pm (doors open at 6:30pm)  
 Location: River Run Center  
*(masks and vaccination proof required)*  
 Additional: The event will also be **livestreamed** – the link will be on Rotary Club of Guelph's website closer to the time [RotaryGuelph.ca](http://RotaryGuelph.ca)  
 Number of tickets: 80 spots available for the River Run Center  
[Click Here](#) for tickets.

### SPEAKERS:

- **Ava Hill**, past Elected Chief of Six Nations Elected Council will talk about Residential Schools and their continuing effect on Indigenous Peoples.
- **Phil Monture**, President of Nativelands Ltd., will speak about Treaties and Land Claims, sharing his extensive experience in this sometimes controversial and misunderstood topic.
- **Roberta Hill and Dawn Hill**, sisters and Residential School survivors, will share their lived experiences.



*VOLUNTARY DONATIONS from the Speaker Event will be directed to **The Mohawk Village Memorial Park** being established outside the former The Mohawk Residential School in Brantford, Ontario.*

## TOWARDS TRUTH – FILM FESTIVAL

From September 30 to October 3, “Towards Truth” will move to the **Bookshelf Cinema** where we will be screening films that address Indigenous relations in Canada.

**35 tickets are available** for each showing. [Click Here](#) for tickets (*masks and vaccination proof required*).

These three films will be shown at various times.

- **Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts (2019)**

This is a must-see film. It explains how the Doctrine, issued as a series of Papal Bulls originating in the 1400s, was used by European monarchies to provide a framework for explorers like Christopher Columbus to lay claim to lands that were vacant or occupied by non-Christians. The Doctrine claimed that Indigenous Peoples in the Americas could be considered non-human, allowing the land they lived on to be seen as “terra nullius” or uninhabited. The effects of the Doctrine are still felt today in modern-day laws and policies. This film can also be watched online [here](#).

- **Beans (2020)**

This Canadian drama explores the 1990 Oka crisis when two Mohawk communities entered a 78-day armed stand-off with government forces to protect a burial ground from developers. Viewers of the film experience the crisis through the eyes of a young Mohawk girl, Tekehentakhwa, nicknamed “Beans.”

- **The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open (2019)**

This film is about a chance encounter on the street between two Indigenous women. One is pregnant and the victim of domestic abuse, and the other can “pass as white” and is trying to help her. The film confronts the problem of domestic abuse, and how it is impacted by social class, ethnicity, and trauma. It also explores the precarious difficulties faced by those who dare to intervene in cycles of abuse. It is both challenging to watch, and a poetic, powerful cinematic experience.



### Thursday, September 30, 2021

6:00pm The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts  
8:30pm Beans

### Friday, October 1, 2021

4:00pm The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open

### Saturday, October 2, 2021

2:00pm Beans

### Sunday, October 3, 2021

10:30am The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open  
1:30pm The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts

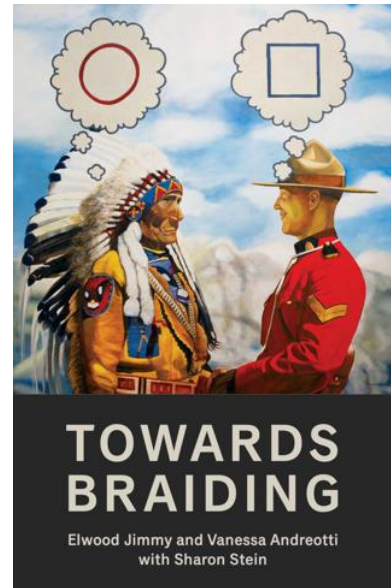
*VOLUNTARY DONATIONS from the Film Festival will be directed to [Anishnabeg Outreach Centre for Indigenous Healing](#) in Kitchener and Guelph.*

## TOWARDS TRUTH - FREE OFFER OF THE COMPELLING BOOK: TOWARDS BRAIDING

This is a must read for organizations and individuals who are looking to explore 'different ways of knowing and being' in order to deepen their understanding of DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI) from an Indigenous, lived experience perspective.

With the book's research and writing sponsored by the Musagetes Foundation, **Towards Braiding** does not provide a direct "how to" for achieving Indigenous DEI (nor do the authors necessarily subscribe to the frame of DEI) but it identifies common pitfalls to avoid, and the principles required that move towards having more sustainable and generative relationships with Indigenous people.

As a community service, the Rotary Club of Guelph's Indigenous Awareness Committee (with financial support from the City of Guelph) has printed 500 copies of this book for organizations and individuals wanting to learn more and help with DEI initiatives, especially with the Indigenous community.



Contact B. Holmes, [rcog.iacomm@gmail.com](mailto:rcog.iacomm@gmail.com) to request a free copy, while quantities last.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH TRUTH & RECONCILIATION?

Learn the truth of Canada's history by yourself, or together as a family. Decide to LEARN & SHARE Canada's Indigenous history, and actively SUPPORT progress wherever possible.

- Explore the vast information provided by the [National Center for Truth and Reconciliation](#).
- Speak up in support of Reconciliation and support initiatives recommended in the [94 Calls to Action](#)
- Monitor the [Government's progress](#) in implementing the 94 recommendations for Truth and Reconciliation.
- **VOTE** and let your MP/MPP know your support of the full completion of the 94 items with urgency.
- Explore Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada through "**Indigenous Canada**", a [12-lesson Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\)](#) from the Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta.
- When the opportunity arises, attend a **KAIROS Blanket Exercise** for an experiential way to hear and enter into the history of Indigenous peoples and settlers in Canada. It provides a starting point for doing the work asked of all Canadians by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**If any of these topics or events cause any crisis or distress, call the Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419.**