

What can I do?

1. **See yourself in the story.** This is not just indigenous history. This is the history of Canada. Learn about the treaties that apply to where you live and explore your own family history to understand how your people have engaged with indigenous people currently and in the past both directly and indirectly. The treaties apply to all of us.
2. **Be patient -- with yourself and the process.** As Justice (now senator) Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, has said: “If it took seven generations to mess things up this bad, it’ll take at least seven to mend it.”
3. **Be curious.** Learn and unlearn. ***Listen to indigenous voices first.*** Read the UNDRIP. Attend lectures and presentations by indigenous speakers. These storytellers, poets and critical theorists offer a different lens on life past and present: • Glen Coulthard; *Red Skins, White Masks* • Leanne Simpson; *Dancing on Our Turtle’s Back* • Taiaiake Alfred; *Wasase* • Richard Wagamese; *One Native Life* • Arthur Manuel; *Unsettling Canada*
Also listen to critical settler voices such as: • John Ralston Saul; *The Comeback* • Victoria Freeman; *Distant Relations* • Paulette Regan; *Unsettling the Settler Within* • Wayne Warry; *Ending Denial* • Rudy Wiebe; *Stolen Life*
4. **Build relationships:**
 - **with other settlers:** • tell the story of our shared history • share resources and experiences with each other • share this history with children • create a space for indigenous knowledge and history in classrooms • visit your local history museum
 - **with indigenous peoples:** • recognize indigenous contributions and resilience • be attentive to the indigenous voices in your midst in TV, humour, music, art, theatre and dance • attend powwows and other gatherings • explore ways to be better neighbours • advocate for strengthened health, education and social services • model reconciliation and new relationships in your own living practice • listen
 - **with the land and its creatures:** • spend time in nature • learn the stories of the land and peoples of your region • discover your watershed and its strengths and struggles
5. **Practice reconciliation:** • Identify yourself as a settler • acknowledge the treaty where you live • stay attuned to indigenous perspectives • confront racism and stereotypes • donate to indigenous charities • rediscover indigenous place names • join in reflecting on monuments, statues and plaques that reflect colonialism • advocate for free, prior and informed consent on resource extraction • advocate for implementation of the TRC calls to action • advocate for honouring of the treaties and treaty obligations

Some Essential Historical Documents & Interpretation

General sources

Indigenous Issue Primers: <http://ow.ly/4n36rC>

Olive Dickason, *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations*

Royal Proclamation, 1763; Treaties; Indian Act

Analysis and excerpt from the Royal Proclamation: <http://ow.ly/4n363Z>

“Settler Treaty Rights”: <http://ow.ly/4n366G>

“Treaties from 1760 - 1923: Two sides to the story”: <http://ow.ly/4n3694>

“The Indian Act, 1876,” a fact sheet by N. Tidridge: <http://ow.ly/4n36bQ>

Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples:

Full text: <http://ow.ly/4n35Ym> • Highlights: <http://ow.ly/4n35AD>

RCAP report card (note: while this document is not up to date, it still provides a sense of the application of the RCAP report): <http://ow.ly/4n36y2>

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Text of the Declaration: <http://ow.ly/4n35xD>

“Fact Sheet on the UNDRIP”: <http://ow.ly/4n35kA>

Residential Schools

Residential School Resources, Aboriginal Health Foundation: <http://ow.ly/4n35h9>

Government of Canada's Apology to Survivors of Indian Residential Schools:
<http://ow.ly/4n35cE>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

Executive Summary of Findings: <http://ow.ly/4n35a5>