

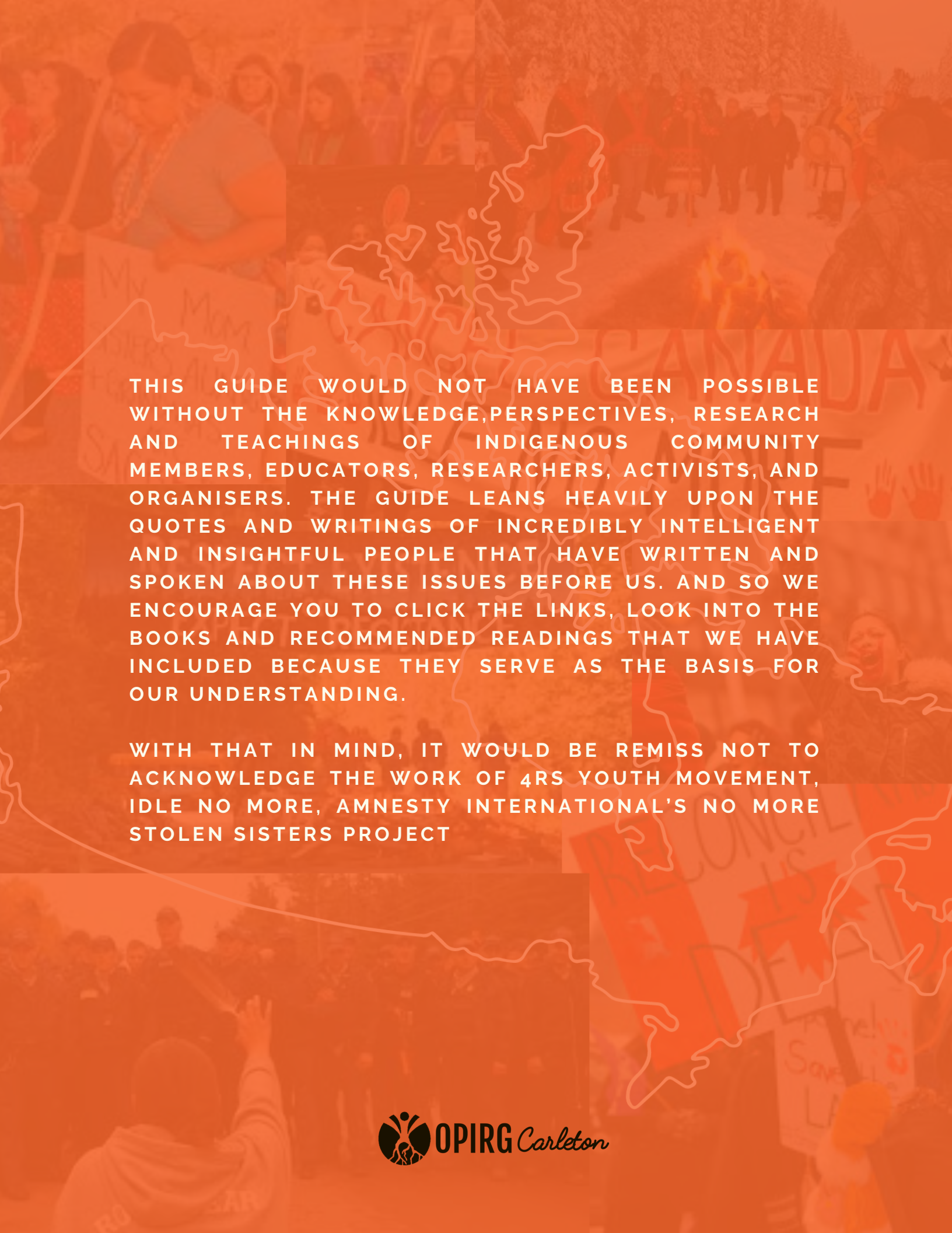


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things to do on July 1st other than celebrate Canada Day

An action oriented starting guide for settlers & Turtle Island arrivants





THIS GUIDE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE, PERSPECTIVES, RESEARCH AND TEACHINGS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS, EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS, ACTIVISTS, AND ORGANISERS. THE GUIDE LEANS HEAVILY UPON THE QUOTES AND WRITINGS OF INCREDIBLY INTELLIGENT AND INSIGHTFUL PEOPLE THAT HAVE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ABOUT THESE ISSUES BEFORE US. AND SO WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CLICK THE LINKS, LOOK INTO THE BOOKS AND RECOMMENDED READINGS THAT WE HAVE INCLUDED BECAUSE THEY SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING.

WITH THAT IN MIND, IT WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF 4RS YOUTH MOVEMENT, IDLE NO MORE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S NO MORE STOLEN SISTERS PROJECT

NAVIGATING THE GUIDE

THIS GUIDE IS NOT MEANT TO BE A CATCH ALL MANUAL ON HOW TO SHOW UP FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ON TURTLE ISLAND. INSTEAD, WE HOPE THAT THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE A FIRST STEP OR A USEFUL JUMPING OFF POINT FOR SETTLERS TO CONTINUOUSLY EDUCATE THEMSELVES ON CANADA'S ONGOING GENOCIDAL PROJECT AND MOVE BEYOND "AWARENESS" IN FAVOUR OF TANGIBLE DECOLONIZING ACTIONS.

THE DOCUMENT IS SEPERATED INTO 4 SEPERATE SECTIONS + ADDITIONAL SOURCES TO EASILY UNDERSTAND THE BASIS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACTIONS. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR SETTLERS TO MOVE BEYOND THE ACT OF KNOWING AND LEARNING FOR SELF IMPROVEMENT TOWARDS TANGIBLE ACTS OF ENGAGEMENT AND REDISTRIBUTION.

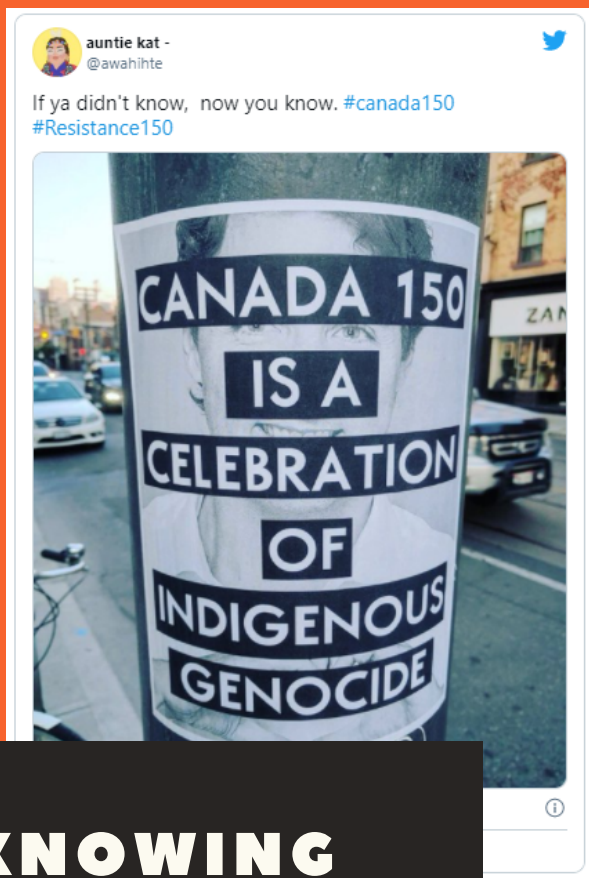
KNOWING
LEARNING
ENGAGING
REDISTRIBUTING

1

RESEARCH WHY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE CALLING TO CANCEL CANADA DAY

While the recent widespread coverage and calls to Cancel Canada Day follow the discoveries of mass graves of sites of genocide also referred to as residential schools, Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island have been denouncing the celebration of Canada Day since the inception of the country.

When the state and settlers celebrated Canada Day four years ago, Indigenous activists strongly opposed the celebrations. Resistance 150 was a coalition of protests and actions in opposition of Canada150. The call to cancel Canada Day celebrations is a call to cancel celebrations of Indigenous genocide.



"WE'RE SAYING YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO US ANYMORE, YOUR CELEBRATION STINKS, IT'S BUILT ON GENOCIDE."

- ISAAC MURDOCH

KNOWING

2

FIND OUT WHO'S LAND YOUR ON

THEN Move beyond land acknowledgements and educate yourself on the current resistance actions and struggles that the Indigenous people whose land you are occupying are engaging in.

3

MOVE BEYOND MONOLITHIC UNDERSTANDINGS OF TURTLE ISLAND INDIGENITY

There are more than 630 different communities identified as First Nations across so called Canadian territory comprised of at least 50 known nations and languages in addition to Metis and Inuit communities.

[List of First Nations by Province](#)

4

CHALLENGE THE APPROPRIATION AND COMMODIFICATION OF INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY AND CULTURE

"Borrowing" from another culture is symptomatic of the history of colonialism in which the colonizing culture assumes everything from the colonized culture is there for the taking."

- Bob Joseph

KNOWING

5

UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SETTLER

"Maybe that term – Settler – makes you uneasy. I've often heard people say 'I didn't take Indian land; I'm no settler!' Let's start with a really important point: this movement is not about historical redress. Indigenous peoples have not suddenly risen up to demand that we educate ourselves on treaties and racist policies and laws from yesteryear. Nor have they 'suddenly risen up' at all. The Indigenous people you see protesting today are part of the same resistance against settler colonialism that has been going on for almost five hundred years.

All of us – every person who lives on and benefits from the theft of Indigenous lands – is a Settler. We all live on someone else's lands, and almost all of us do so illegally. Everyday that you live in Canada or America, every day that you make a living, have freedom of movement, and enjoy a standard of living much higher than most of the world, you are part of settler colonization. It does not matter if your family has been here since the Mayflower landed, or if you just recently moved to Toronto from abroad: you are part of this. That is how settler colonization functions. It's not just about soldiers and conquest, and it's not just about residential schools or underfunded housing. It's about thousands, millions of individual people, families, and communities pursuing freedom and wealth, at the expense of Indigenous people, their lands, and their cultures."

**"BUT WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE
THAT OUR WORLD IS SYNTHETIC.
OUR SOCIETY IS BUILT FROM BITS
AND PIECES OF SHATTERED
INDIGENOUS SOCIETIES."**

KNOWING

- RONALD GAMBLIN

6

LEARN WHAT CALLS FOR "LAND BACK" ARE ASKING FOR

"While these words seem straight forward enough, this phrase encompasses a complicated and intergenerational web of ideas/movements. When I hear Indigenous youth and land protectors chant "Land Back!" at a rally, I know it can mean the literal restoration of land ownership. When grandmothers and knowledge keepers say it, I tend to think it means more the stewardship and protection of mother earth. When Indigenous political leaders say it, it often means comprehensive land claims and self-governing agreements. No matter what meaning is attached, we as Indigenous nations have an urge to reconnect with our land in meaningful ways.

In school we are all taught a one sided and misleading version history, as a newcomer you're told to avoid Indigenous folks and neighbourhoods, when buying property you're made to believe that the land you "own" wasn't acquired through violence, but only through exchange. At every point possible your existence has been shaped to unknowingly push against Indigenous land reclamation efforts. Most people that reside in Canada are taught to avoid and neglect conversations about colonialism and its negative impacts, to be possessive of land and to be ignorant towards Indigenous folks. This is intentional. Canadian society has been set up to resist Indigenous relationships to land. Colonial states are afraid of the power Indigenous relationships to land hold, the questions this creates around wealth and ownership, and the systems that have to be dismantled.

THE PROJECT OF LAND BACK IS ABOUT RECLAIMING INDIGENOUS JURISDICTION: BREATHING LIFE INTO RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES."

- RONALD GAMBLIN

KNOWING

7

RECOGNIZE HOW UPHOLDING THE LEGITIMACY OF THE CANADIAN STATE LEGITIMIZES GLOBAL SETTLER COLONIALISM AND ENABLES CONTINUED VIOLENCE AND ACTS OF GENOCIDE

"Forms of colonial violence echo each other across space and time. From Canada to Palestine, settler rule is enforced by mass incarceration, extrajudicial killing, torture, and rape."

Azeezah Kanji



8

QUESTION THE WAY WHITE SUPREMACY ERASES BLACK INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-INDIGENOUS VOICES

"Despite having histories that are often built upon shared experiences of community building, resistance to white supremacy, oppression under colonisation and imperialism and state violence afro-indigenous peoples still

"It kind of reminds us that Afro-Indigenous kin are still not seen as Indigenous. We are 'other,' and yet Indigenous kin who have European ancestry are more readily accepted as Indigenous."

-Mahlikah Awe:ri

face anti-blackness from their indigenous communities and the erasure of their complex multiple identities.

KNOWING

9

RESEARCH PAST AND ONGOING LAND STRUGGLES BETWEEN INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

Understand that land reclamation is not impossible or intangible There are currently thirty two [Ongoing Land Claims in So Called Ontario](#) [The Algonquin Land Claim](#) with the government of Canada was initially submitted to the government of Ontario in the 1980s and is in its final stages of negotiations and if successful would be the province's first modern day treaty with an Indigenous nation. All of these struggles for land are made easier when Indigenous nations receive public support from settlers.

Other Historical and Present Day Land Claims and Negotiations

[Charlottetown Accord.](#)

[The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.](#)

[Musqueam Land Return](#)

"THE TREATY THAT WE HAVE, AND ALL OF THE TREATIES HAVE BEEN BROKEN PROMISES"

- CARL QUINN

10

LEARN ABOUT EXISTING TREATIES AND THEIR CONTESTED LEGALITY

The Canadian government often ties its right to exist by pointing to the treaties between settlers and indigenous peoples. Understanding which land is governed by treaties and which land was unceded and unsurrendered is incredibly important to combatting this idea. Furthermore it is important to recognize that Indigenous peoples who signed treaties

did not do so to surrender their rights or right to land but rather to outline the parameters of what they had hoped could be a "relationship between autonomous peoples."

LEARNING

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READ THE FINAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

"The National Inquiry's Final Report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The two volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country."

- National Inquiry Into MMIWG

12

LEARN ABOUT RESIDENTIAL AND DAY SCHOOLS AS SITES AS GENOCIDE BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

"The residential school system officially operated from the 1880s into the closing decades of the 20th century. The system forcibly separated children from their families for extended periods of time and forbade them to acknowledge their Indigenous heritage and culture or to speak their own languages. Children were severely punished if these, among other, strict rules were broken. Former students of residential schools have spoken of horrendous abuse at the hands of residential school staff: physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological."

- Eric Hanson et. al

LEARNING

13

LEARN THE HISTORY AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE INDIAN ACT

In 1876 the Indian Act was brought into effect and with it it brought in the formal policy structure that would govern the relationship between Indigenous peoples, the state, and the land.

[See the NWAC's timeline of the Indian Act](#) to see all the ways the act has changed and uniquely harmed Turtle Island's indigenous populations.

14

LEARN ABOUT RESERVATION AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY FOOD DESERTS

"Food insecurity is a serious public health issue for Aboriginal people (First Nations [FN], Métis, and Inuit) living in Canada. Food security challenges faced by FN people are unique, especially for those living in remote and isolated communities."

- Kelly Skinner

"The price label on a head of cabbage in Arctic Bay was \$28.54; the tag below a flat of six cans of concentrated orange juice in Igloolik read \$51.89, and a 24-pack of bottled water in Clyde River was a mind-blowing \$104.99!"

-Huffington Post

LEARNING

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LEARN ABOUT RESERVATIONS AND THE WAY THAT SPACE ACROSS TURTLE ISLAND HAS BECOME INACCESSIBLE TO INDIGNEOUS PEOPLES

Canadian Reserves are governed by the Indian Act,. The conditions on reserves remain a clear indication of the vastly different standards of living between settlers and Indigenous peoples. However, the belief that Indigenous people should want to live off of a reserve is also one that is loaded with the belief that Indigenous people are better off when they abandon their traditions, kin, and communities.

We must engage with the ways that colonialism has intentionally disappeared Indigenous peoples from urban spaces and has constructed "Indigeneity as non-urban." This disappearance happens most blatantly through policy choices. Historically, laws have changed Indigenous people's relationships to legal benefits based on whether they live on reservations.



LEARNING

16

RESEARCH THE WAYS THAT THE "JUSTICE SYSTEM" HAS BEEN USED TO ENACT VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

"The residential school system officially operated from the 1880s into the closing decades of the 20th century. The system forcibly separated children from their families for extended periods of time and forbade them to acknowledge their Indigenous heritage and culture or to speak their own languages. Children were severely punished if these, among other, strict rules were broken. Former students of residential schools have spoken of horrendous abuse at the hands of residential school staff: physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological."

"The residential school system officially operated from the 1880s into the closing decades of the 20th century. The system forcibly separated children from their families for extended periods of time and forbade them to acknowledge their Indigenous heritage and culture or to speak their o

"INDIGENOUS PEOPLE REPRESENT ONLY ABOUT 5 PER CENT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION BUT AS OF JANUARY 2020, THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 30.4 PER CENT OF THE OVERALL FEDERAL PRISON POPULATION; EVEN MORE STARTLING IS THAT INDIGENOUS WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR 42 PER CENT OF FEDERALLY INCARCERATED WOMEN (ZINGER, 2020)."

-REI REESE

LEARNING

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POSTER YOUR CITY WITH CANCEL CANADA DAY POSTERS

You can download the PDF for the poster [here!](#)

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ATTEND A CANCEL CANNADA DAY OCCUPATION OR ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

There are actions happening all across so called Canada on July 1st. Check in with local organizing groups to see what is happening near you.



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ATTEND ACTIONS AND DECOLONIAL ACTIONS EVERY TIME THEY HAPPEN, NOT JUST ON CANADA DAY OR UPON LEARNING ABOUT A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SITE.

ENGAGING

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CALL UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MOVE BEYOND STATEMENTS OF SHAME AND REGRET.

Write to your MPs about unequivocally acknowledging the actions of the Canadian Government and Catholic Church as genocidal acts.

The Canadian government often makes statements expressing regret and shock and sadness, but fall short of making meaningful commitments towards decolonisation or large scale land transfers.

WRITE TO YOUR MP ABOUT INCLUDING INDIGENOUS HISTORIES AND CANADA'S ACTS OF GENOCIDE IN THE CURRICULUM

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IF YOU'RE NON-INDIGENOUS, YOU MAY HAVE HAD SOME HAZY IDEA OF "INDIAN SCHOOLS," BUT THE KIND OF NIGHTMARISH ABUSE, BULLYING, DEPRIVATION AND DEATH THAT WENT ON? IT WAS RARELY ACKNOWLEDGED AND NEVER DISCUSSED. I CAN REMEMBER FIRST HEARING ABOUT THE SCHOOLS ONLY ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO IN ONE OF THOSE FREE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS THAT GO ON AT NOISY BOOK CLUB MEETINGS, AND THINKING, "I HAVE A HISTORY DEGREE...HOW IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE I'VE NEVER HEARD OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS?"

Bonnie Schiedel

ENGAGING

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BE INNOVATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE ABOUT WAYS THAT YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL CAN TAKE PART IN THE ACT OF DECOLONISATION, LAND RETURN, AND REDISTRIBUTION.

Part of recognizing privilege is being able to see where there are potential opportunities for being useful. Think about your work environment, your land, your capital, your connections, your networks. What opportunities do you have, and what access do you have that can be used in service of decolonisation.

One woman's plan to give back: 'The land needs to be returned to Indigenous peoples'



CBC Radio · Posted: Oct 20, 2017 4:26 PM ET | Last Updated: October 20, 2017



res of land in Ontario. She's beginning the process of repatriating it to (applied)

return her land to the Alderville First Nation as an act of

ENGAGING

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BUDGET FOR MUTUAL AID AND
REGULAR REDISTRIBUTION
SPECIFICALLY FOR FOLKS
INDIGENOUS TO TURTLE
ISLAND.

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GIVE MONEY TO INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE WITHOUT SHELTER.

Do not question what they will use the money on. Do not be judgemental if the money you give them is not used in a way that you would like. Redistribute to shelterless Indigenous people without judgment, with kindness, compassion and respect. Carrying cash / change is a great way to ensure that you are able to sustain this practice!

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PAY INDIGENOUS EDUCATORS
AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS FOR
THE FREE INFORMATION THEY
SHARE

REDISTRIBUTING

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PAY LAND REPARATIONS

There is no single agreed upon way to participate in land reparations, but the ongoing practice of paying rent, paying sums of income, or living services in kind to Indigenous nations can be a first step in normalising reparations between settlers and peoples Indigenous to Turtle Island.

Resource Generation has created a [Solidarity Action Guide and Toolkit](#) that begins to imagine what the process of land reparations can look like in practice.

"THE HISTORIC AND ONGOING THEFT AND CONTROL OF LAND, REAL ESTATE, AND RESOURCES HAS LED TO THE EXTREME CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH AMONG A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT EXISTS TODAY."

- RESOURCE GENERATION

REDISTRIBUTING

Other Readings and Sources

On Settlers

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<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/beyondlecture/chapter/imagining-a-better-future-an-introduction-to-teaching-and-learning-about-settler-colonialism-in-canada/>

Land Back

<https://4rsyouth.ca/land-back-what-do-we-mean/>

https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/?fbclid=IwAR3SMYCFkraloXNrdf5hvFuJz2sah0H46SQmcf0_l6pjJXTUJEVycNldpA

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/land-claims>

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

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<https://www.afn.ca/one-year-after-the-national-inquiry-final-report-on-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-and-girls-national-chief-bellegarde-maintains-immediate-action-can-be-taken/>

<https://fnbc.info/blogs/judith-sayers/reflections-murdered-and-missing-indigenous-women-inquiry>

Treaties

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/3/17/canada-and-the-first-nations-a-history-of-broken-promises>

<https://indigenoustudies.utoronto.ca/news/treaty-myths/>

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/aboriginal-treaties>

http://education.historicacanada.ca/files/31/Treaties_English.pdf

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231>

Justice System

<https://yellowheadinstitute.org/resources/carceral-redlining-white-supremacy-the-incarceration-for-indigenous-and-black-peoples/>

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<https://medium.com/@emilynorweg/from-compromise-to-the-carceral-state-a-brief-history-of-the-politics-of-systemic-racism-c7d4f3db1d29>

Other Readings and Sources

Global Settler Colonialism

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/25/indigenous-australians-and-canadians-destroyed-by-same-colonialism>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261576301_Queer_Settler_Colonialism_in_Canada_and_Israel_Articulating_Two-Spirit_and_Palestinian_Queer_Critiques

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40388468>

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<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1177180119890141>

<https://youthrex.com/blog/writing-myself-into-existence-an-essay-on-the-erasure-of-black-indigenous-identity-in-canadian-education/>

<https://www.womenadvancenc.org/2019/11/18/black-natives-erasure-by-neocolonialism/>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/06/12/afro-indigenous-community-calls-out-sephora-canada-for-lacking-diverse-representation.html>

<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/what-it-means-to-be-both-black-and-indigenous/>

Food Deserts and Food Insecurity

<https://academic.oup.com/cdn/article/4/8/nzaa108/5865693>

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MOM MOM
SISTERS, ALWAYS
HERONMAS ARE
SACRED

NO MORE CANADA

RESPECT EXISTENCE
EXPECT OF RESISTANCE

RECONCILIATION IS DEAD

Save the Land