Our history begins in the spirit world before the light of day. Our humanness derives from the act of creation and placement upon our traditional lands by God. Our land is indeed a Holy Land. Our identity is inseparable from our land. By definition, the Nisga'a do not exist in the fullness of their 'being' without a complete melding of their land, language, laws, tribal system and spiritual values.

Rod Robinson, Nisga'a

There was the realization that dialogue would be the first step to reconciliation, and there was a need to engage Canadians in a way they had never been engaged before. The spirit is the essence of ourselves and we need a new spiritual understanding that we are chidren of the Creator.

Chief Robert Joseph, Kwakwaka'wakw, works with Indian Residential School Survivors Society and was named an elder to the Truth and Reconciliation formal event in Winnipeg, MA, June, 2010.

This is not an Aboriginal issue. It is a Canadian issue. It is part of Canadian history. It belongs to all of us and we to it.

From: *Reconciliation: A Work in Progress*. Aboriginal Healing Foundation, authors. 2010. Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Ottawa, Ontario.

What might it mean to live our lives as if the lives of others truly mattered?

Simon, Roger. 2005. *The Touch of the Past: Remembrance, Learning and Ethics*. NYC, NY: Palgrave MacMillan.

About our Logo . . .

Victor Newman, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish and born at Alert Bay, designed the logo for Aboriginal Neighbours. Newman studied at K'san and with Tony Hunt in Victoria. Some of Victor's inspiration came from the works of his great grandfather, the late Charlie James, a well-respected Kwakwaka'wakw carver.

The dove signifies peace and prophecy. Its song tells us to mourn what has passed and awaken to the promise of the future.

The black in the logo represents strength, the red is for life, while the white signifies peace and harmony.

The artist has incorporated the representative styles of three tribal groups on Vancouver Island: Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Coast Salish.

ABORIGINAL NEIGHBOURS

Started by the
Anglican Diocese of British Columbia
now in ecumenical coalition with
the United Church of Canada:
Victoria Presbytery and the
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

900 Vancouver St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 3V7
Website: aboriginalneighbours.org

" ... and love your neighbour as yourself."