



Reconciliation
Canada

WALK FOR RECONCILIATION SUMMARY REPORT

'Namwayut

WE ARE ALL ONE

50,000 people gathered

in downtown Vancouver for the Walk for Reconciliation on September 24, 2017 – a call to action for social change, inspiring Indigenous peoples and all Canadians to actively pursue reconciliation within their families, workplaces and communities.

The Walk was hosted on the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples: **the Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Mi ce:p kʷətxʷiləm (Tsleil-Waututh), and Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nations**. Special guests included Inuit and Métis peoples, and participants from diverse backgrounds, faiths, cultures and communities. The event encouraged a deeper understanding of **our shared history** and reaffirmed the collective commitment to **move forward in a new way**.

Born from the vision of **Chief Robert Joseph**, Ambassador of Reconciliation Canada, the Walk for Reconciliation formed part of Reconciliation Canada's Reconciliation in Action: A National Engagement Strategy, a Canada 150 Signature Project funded in part by the Government of Canada, and part of the City of Vancouver's Canada 150+ series of events hosted in partnership with the Vancouver Parks Board.

The Walk was followed by the inaugural Reconciliation Expo, where attendees enjoyed **a diverse program with multicultural speakers, performers, activities and community booths**.

50,000

people joined the 2017 Walk for Reconciliation

362

volunteers helped to make the Walk and Expo a success

263

teams registered for the Walk for Reconciliation



IN THE MEDIA

Drawing significant media attention, this event raised public awareness of the reconciliation movement on a national level. **#WalkforRec** became **the second highest-trending** Twitter topic in Canada and was featured on:

- CBC
- Global News
- CTV
- Metro News

- Roundhouse Radio
- Huffington Post
- Georgia Straight
- Storyhero Media

ACTIVITIES

Hosted at the Walk end site in Strathcona Park, the Reconciliation Expo inspired and deepened participants' understanding of reconciliation in Canada. Speakers throughout the day included:

Councillor Chris Lewis | Squamish Nation
Elder Amy George | Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Chief Robert Joseph | Reconciliation Canada
Chief Wayne Sparrow | Musqueam Nation
Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould | Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Chief Ian Campbell | Squamish Nation
National Chief Perry Bellegarde
Assembly of First Nations (Keynote)
Hon. John Horgan | Premier of British Columbia
Hon. Scott Fraser | Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Mayor Gregor Robertson | City of Vancouver
Karen Joseph | Reconciliation Canada
Councillor Liana Martin | Tsleil-Waututh Nation

The Expo included impactful performances by headliners Susan Aglukark, Emmanuel Jal, George Leach and Sister Says. Woven through the program were a culturally diverse selection of artists and performance groups: Flight of the Thunderbird, Axe Capoeira, Eagle song dancers, V'ni Dansi, Lorita Leung Dance Company, N'we Jinan, Tsatsu Stalqaya and Sawagi Taiko.

The Expo featured 19 interactive community booths that showcased their unique contributions to the reconciliation movement. For a full list, please visit WalkforReconciliation.ca.

The following on-site exhibits and activities enabled participants to expand their understanding of reconciliation:

- **Exhibit – National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Exhibit – Site Unseen: Mural of Merging Voices**
- **Exhibit – Carey Newman's Witness Blanket**
- **Lacrosse Demo and Drills – Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council**
- **Children's Reconciliation Village – Right to Play**
- **Weavers Corner – Earhand Gleaners Society**
- **Blanket Exercise – KAIROS**
- **On-site Mural Painting – Vancouver Mural Festival**
- **Storytelling by Naomi Steinberg**

IMPACT

The 2017 Walk continues to build national awareness for reconciliation. Acting as a catalyst for ongoing national dialogue, events like the Walk keep reconciliation at the forefront of our collective consciousness and inspire action at the individual, organizational and community levels.

To learn more about the Walk and provide your feedback, visit WalkforReconciliation.ca

For more information about Reconciliation Canada, visit ReconciliationCanada.ca



Canada

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