

Learn, Reflect and Engage

Resources for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 2025



Truth and Reconciliation Day, also known as Orange Shirt Day, is observed on September 30. The day honours Survivors of residential schools and children who never returned home, as well as their families and communities. It is a call to collective remembrance, education and action, ensuring that the traumatic experiences of residential schools and the Sixties Scoop are not forgotten and that steps are continually taken towards justice and reconciliation.

As you get ready to engage with this year's Truth and Reconciliation Day, these resources can support your learning and help you prepare. We encourage you to choose at least one or two to watch or read before September 30.

Please be aware that these resources contain subject matter that may be disturbing. Links to mental health resources are available below for your support and use.

Suicide Crisis Helpline
Call or text 9-8-8

Kids Help Phone
1-800-668-6868 or text
CONNECT to 686868

Canadian Indian
Residential Schools Crisis
Line 1-866-925-4419

Ontario Online & Text
Crisis Services
Text SUPPORT to 258258

Jump In

Doctrine of Discovery: In the Name of Christ: a 43-minute documentary that teaches about the history of the Doctrine of Discovery, its basis in Christian theology, its effects on Indigenous Peoples today, and how we might start to undo it. The film features interviews with Indigenous activists from around the world, as well as Mennonite and Christian theologians to explore the question, “What does it mean to be a peacemaker today in a world where the present is defined by the violence of the past?” An accompanying study guide includes resources for further learning.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvM4SJN76Yg>

<https://dismantlediscovery.org/study-guide>



Watch



Study Guide

Beyond 94 – Truth and Reconciliation in Canada: In March 2018, CBC News launched Beyond 94, a website tracking the progress of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action. Updated regularly, this site offers up-to-date status reports and detailed summaries for each call to action. Beyond 94 also features in-depth articles, short video documentaries and personal stories from residential school survivors, providing a comprehensive look at the journey toward reconciliation.

<https://www.cbc.ca/newsinteractives/beyond-94>



Discover

The Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius — by The Indigenous Foundation: A brief article explaining the connection between the Doctrine of Discovery and Canada written by a Grade 10 student.

<https://www.theindigenousfoundation.org/articles/the-doctrine-of-discovery-and-terra-nullius>



Read

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World: Author of Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Wall Kimmerer asks in the book how can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? The book puts forward a bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity and community, based on the lessons of the natural world.

<https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/28174>



Purchase

The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*: Authored by Sarah Augustine, the book reframes the colonization of North America as she investigates ways that the Doctrine of Discovery continues to devastate Indigenous cultures, and even the planet itself, as it justifies exploitation of both natural resources and people. Sarah claims that what was done in the name of Christ must be undone in the name of Christ. The good news of Jesus means there is still hope for the righting of wrongs. Right relationship with God, others, and the earth requires no less.

<https://dismantlediscovery.org/the-land-is-not-empty-book-by-sarah-augustine>



Read

Indigenous Rights in One Minute: Authored by Bruce McIvor this book gives brief and clear descriptions of everything from the Doctrine of Discovery to Aboriginal vs Indigenous rights to implications of various court challenges - 202 oneminute answers.

<https://nightwoodeditions.com/products/9780889714885>



Purchase

Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys: A book by Richard Twiss that explores how Native Americans have found culturally authentic ways to follow the Jesus way.

<https://www.ivpress.com/rescuing-the-gospel-from-the-cowboys>



Purchase

Go Deeper

If you'd like to dive deeper into your learning, we suggest these resources and reflection questions.

Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts:

A 66-minute documentary created by the Anglican Church of Canada. The film features interviews with First Nations, Metis and Inuit speakers including Sen. Murray Sinclair and Rev. Ray Aldred, and highlights the connections between the Doctrine of Discovery, ongoing impacts on Indigenous communities and reconciliation efforts in Canada.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQwkB1hn5E8>



Watch

So We & Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis*: Co-authored by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler, the book explores ecological justice and asserts that solutions for climate change and the ecological crisis our earth faces cannot come through the same systems that created those problems in the first place. The book offers hope



Purchase

for a better future alongside concrete actions for joining with Indigenous Peoples to protect life and negotiate with decision-makers for sustainable change that follows Jesus.

<https://dismantlediscovery.org/so-we-and-our-children-may-live>

Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization:

In this book, over 60 Indigenous and Settler authors come together to wrestle with the Scriptures, re-reading and re-imagining the ancient text for the sake of reparative futures. Created by Mennonite Church Canada's Indigenous-Settler Relations program, it is intended to nurture courageous conversations with the Bible, our current settler colonial contexts, and the Church's call to costly peacemaking.

<https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/19793>



Purchase

Podcast – The Doctrine of Discovery: Hosted by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler, an Indigenous woman and a white settler woman – both Anabaptists, the podcast uncovers the deep structure of colonization endorsed by the Doctrine of Discovery that systematically deprives Indigenous Peoples of their human rights today.

<https://dismantlediscovery.org/the-doctrine-of-discovery-podcast>



Listen

REFLECTIONS

Reflection questions related to the Doctrine of Discovery:
In the Name of Christ documentary that can support reflection and further actions:

1. In the film, Ted Strong, Chief Judge of the Yakama Nation Tribal Court, said, "The Doctrine of Discovery, as practiced, is evil." What were some of the practices of the Doctrine of Discovery according to the film or your own knowledge?
2. How are Indigenous Peoples in your area continuing or recovering traditional practices, languages, ceremonies and/or other forms of culture? Consider pow wows and local Indigenous organizations that you may know about.
3. In the film, Erica Littlewolf says, "I have a lot of hope in Mennonites...because they seem to love the land as well." How might your community nurture your love for the land in your current context and propel you to work for repair?
4. How can we, in our own church communities and as part of the global church, walk alongside and support Indigenous communities in their journey for recognition of their rights as part of the Biblical mandate to love our neighbours as ourselves?

Interested in learning more and continuing the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous and First Nations peoples?

MCC offers a variety of educational resources to support your efforts. For more information, please contact MCC at

