



IMAGINE A CANADA

2022 HONOUREES PROJECTS



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA





IMAGINE A CANADA



The Imagine a Canada program asks youth to

ENVISION A CANADA RECONCILED

Since 2016, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) has received over 1,440+ Imagine a Canada submissions and has worked with thousands of students to realize their hopes and dreams of a Canada they wish to see. For the 2022-2023 program, students in kindergarten to Grade 12 and CÉGEP were invited to submit artwork, essays, projects or other representations of a reconciled Canada.

In March 2023, fourteen art and essay submissions and eleven projects were selected for recognition for being uniquely beautiful, inspiring, and educational. These projects, and the meaning behind them, have been reproduced in one of two publications showcasing the creativity of youth as well as their understanding of Reconciliation.

Youth from all twenty-five projects participated in virtual leadership training exercises where they learned directly from Elders, Survivors, and Knowledge Keepers as well as special guests about reconciliation, resilience, entrepreneurship, how to manage projects, and how to hold difficult conversations. In addition to being featured in the publication, the chosen reconciliation projects received a grant of up to \$1,500 to turn their visions into reality.

The Imagine a Canada program has evolved with the ever-changing education landscape in this country. Knowledge of the residential school system and its impacts is becoming more accessible thanks to the efforts of residential school Survivors who have long hoped their stories and experiences could be used to educate others.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, now more than ever, have a greater understanding of the complex and difficult history of residential schools and this is evident in the number and content of submitted projects.

This year, we were excited to expand the program and offer grants to assist youth to address Reconciliation in their school or community. Reconciliation requires constructive action to address the ongoing impacts of colonial systems like residential school. We were truly inspired by the diversity of submissions based upon respect, understanding, inclusivity, and cultural revitalization.

Each of us has the responsibility to advance reconciliation in Canada. The Imagine a Canada program helps us to realize youth visions of a Reconciled Canada to make our country a better place for all.

On behalf of the Governing Circle and the Survivors Circle of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba, I wish to congratulate the youth who have shared their visions with the Centre and all Canadians. I also wish to commend their teachers and mentors, guardians and families, schools and communities for supporting the next generation.

Stephanie Scott, *Executive Director*
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

IG Wealth Management is honoured to be a part of the Imagine a Canada initiative. We all have a role to play in helping create a more inclusive society that respects and recognizes a reconciled Canada.

Through this amazing program, Canadian youth from across the country have had the opportunity to express their vision of Canada through the lens of reconciliation and to envision what our future together could look like. The results are truly inspiring and empowering.

The collection of art and projects featured in these books celebrates the impactful work of the students, teachers and families who continue to embrace the full scope of Canada's history. Each piece does an amazing job showcasing the bravery and innovation of Canada's young people today as they champion the rich history and culture of our Indigenous communities.

The unique visions expressed through these pieces of work demonstrate the strength and commitment that young people have towards building a more equitable future for Canadians coast-to-coast.

On behalf of IG, I'd like to thank all the parents, teachers and mentors who supported these extraordinary youth through their journeys of expression and education. And thank you to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and the Imagine a Canada initiative, for inspiring hope and change for future generations.

And, most importantly, congratulations to the young people represented in this book for creating their visions!

Damon Murchison, *President and CEO*
IG Wealth Management





Creighton Community School

DREYDEN COOK'S GRADE 5 AND 6 CLASSES

Creighton, SK

Dreyden and Jenilee headed a project at Creighton Community School for students studying the 94 Calls to Action across 94 days with a celebratory day of further learning from Knowledge Keepers, Elders, and craftspeople. This was the second year in which they brought in speakers to encourage students to keep informed of reconciliation in Canada. With the support of Imagine a Canada, they were able to extend the previous half-day to a full day of learning for students at Creighton.

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OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

First Nations people are more than statistics and part of reconciliation means education. It starts with government funded institutions teaching about the First Nation's people in a way that showcases their culture in a positive light. That is where an event, like our 94 Calls to Action Recognition Day, holds the government and their actions to reconcile relationships accountable.

Henderson Elementary School

COBAIN FLETT AND AUBREY MULLIGAN

Dauphin, MB

Henderson Elementary School invited two Indigenous educators to share teachings and lead workshops with the students. Patrick Paul taught the K-5 students about the techniques and meaning in Woodland style art and led them in creating their own pieces. Elder Candace Demeria came twice (for Gr 3-5 and then K-2) to teach the Seven Sacred Teachings and other learnings through drumming songs.

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OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

Reconciliation means sorry, truth, wisdom, relationships, moving forward, and learning. It means that our country has finally recognized that they treated the Indigenous people with no respect, that their culture and lifestyle were destroyed. This abuse continued generation after generation, affecting many people. The government apology has begun to foster reconciliation and the beginning of healing in a broken society.



St. Mark Catholic Elementary School

KELLY DALY'S GRADE 3 CLASSES

Burlington, ON

The First Nations Communities in Ontario and Early Settlers is a Social Studies unit at St. Mark's Catholic Elementary School consists of three Grade 3 classes. They learned the value of Indigenous cultures and used the support from Imagine a Canada to bring in Tribal Vision Dance, a team of Indigenous singers and dancers who impart truth through their interactive performances. This is an initiative from Kelly Daly and Danielle Giraldi to promote reconciliation by way of dispelling myths and prejudices against Indigenous people in Canada.

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OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

We wanted to learn and know more about Indigenous traditions and practices such as foods, dance, and languages. First Nations peoples should be comfortable at any school. We should all learn about and celebrate Indigenous traditions. We should also learn to care and use the land properly like First Nations communities did. We would accept First Nations as a part of us.

Willow Road Public School

CHLOE-LYN SHAW

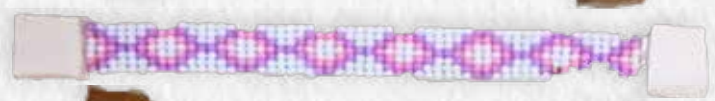
Guelph, ON

Chloe led her Grade 6 classmates in organizing a workshop led by Knowledge Keeper Leslie Anne Muma who taught the students about patterning, multiplication, and geometry through Métis beadwork. Over the three-day workshop, students created loom bracelets as a way of studying mathematical principles through traditional Métis methods.

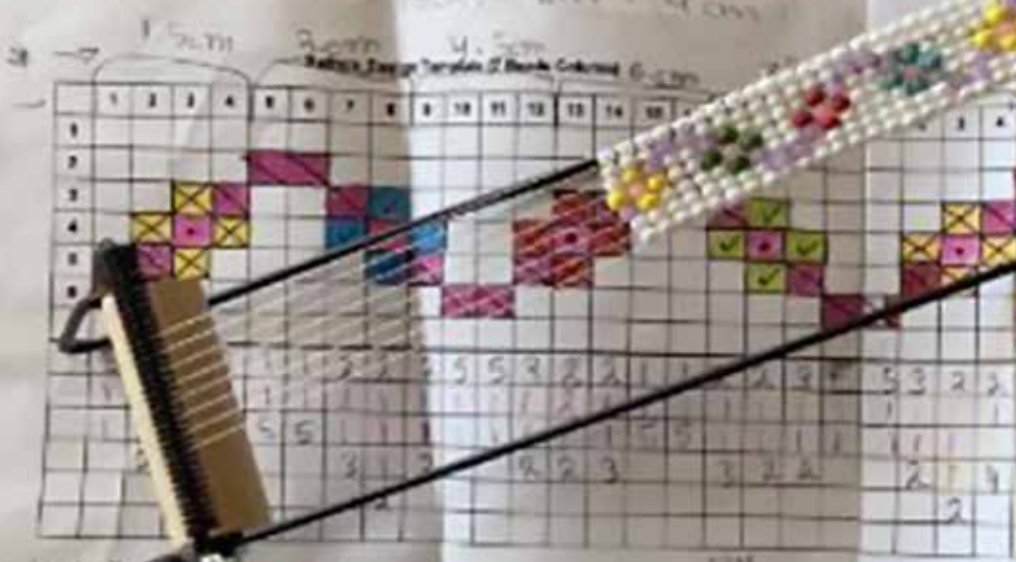
IMAGINE A CANADA

OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

Reconciliation means celebrating Indigenous people. We need reconciliation so that we can make sure we don't build any more residential schools that erase people's culture and identity. We need to listen to people's stories and learn from them.



Woburn



White = 1
blue = 4
yellow = 4
Red = 4

Pattern = 1
Pattern = 1
Total = 1

First Nations
Math Workbook

First Nations
Math Workbook



Rosser Elementary School

AUBREE MISKINACK, TIA BENEDETTI ORIECUIA, AUGUST BRISTOWE NAGY

Burnaby, BC

Aubree, August, Tia, and others launched a school mural initiative guided by artist Marissa Nahanee of the Squamish and Nisga'a Nations. Marissa worked with students and staff from Rosser Elementary to create an insightful art piece. This project addresses reconciliation by incorporating messages of truth and reconciliation through depictions of hope. Rosser Elementary reached out to Elders and Knowledge Keepers in preparation for the grand unveiling of the mural.

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OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

For us reconciliation means the possibility that there is an opportunity to heal, compromise and restore friendly relations between non-Indigenous people and the Indigenous peoples in Canada. Our project celebrates Indigenous peoples and cultures while rebuilding the relationship between Indigenous peoples and schools.

Reconciliation also means that schools and communities work in harmony with all community members, Indigenous and not, to remember 7 generations back and work for 7 generations in the future. We imagine a Canada where this is true.

Ecole South Pointe School

KOLTON HOTOMANI, LEVI KIRTON-DANIELS, AND ASHTON KEEWATINCAPPO

Winnipeg, MB

At Ecole South Pointe, students of the Four Directions Indigenous Student Group planned a project that included the entire school. Students of this group partnered with Elder-in-residence Pahan Pte San Win to coordinate the distribution of Project of Heart wooden tiles to every student and staff member.

The tiles were painted to showcase the community's unique perspectives on reconciliation. The tiles were then collected by the Four Directions group and arranged into a large mural of an Indigenous figure and cast in resin. It was displayed after National Truth and Reconciliation Day 2023.

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OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

Reconciliation means working together as people you can trust. It means honouring treaties and respecting Indigenous cultures, traditions, and beliefs, and accepting that such horrors happened in the past and using it to add better knowledge to our future for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.



istock

Credit: turk_sto



Quamichan School

SIENNA WHITE

Duncan, BC

Sienna White led thirty-nine students in the creation of a mural for their school. This mural incorporates elements of the Coast Salish culture with consultation on the design and teachings provided by Stuart Pagaduan. This class is part of a Grade 8 and 9 cohort which took a year-long course that provides learnings of Hul'qumi'num language and art, facilitated by Hul'qumi'num cultural advisor, Carole Louie. Carole also provided guidance on what important symbols, elements, and stories could be included in the mural. Reconciliation is at the forefront of this mural through the hope that it will inspire other students in the future.

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OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

To us, reconciliation means hope: hope for a future where we are all kind to one another, for a school community where we all respect each other and our boundaries, and for a society that sees everyone as equal. Reconciliation will take a long time and it will not be easy, but we believe that our generation can help lead towards reconciliation.

St. Thomas Aquinas High School

HARMONY OSBORNE REDSKY, TATYANA SANDY-KASPRICK, AND EMILY PENCOFF

Kenora, ON

A group of ten students led by Harmony, Tatyana, and Emily partnered with others in their community to create an art piece that visually reflects truth and reconciliation in Treaty 3 territory. The mixed media canvas piece includes acrylic paint, rocks, and beads.

Throughout the creation of this piece, the Elder-in-Residence and the Knowledge Keepers shared their stories and gave final approval for the content of the art piece. Ultimately, St. Thomas Aquinas High School aims to become a place of celebration for members of the Anishinaabe community with the completion of this project.

IMAGINE A CANADA

OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

Truth and Reconciliation will happen when the mountain of injustice that our Indigenous Canadians endure is transformed into pebbles that each Canadian carries in their pockets with wisdom, dignity and humility recognizing that we all play a part in forgiveness and moving forward towards a greater Canada.

Our Treaty 3 area has adopted an 8th Grandfather teaching – forgiveness, symbolized by the rock. The rocks of Northern Ontario have witnessed colonization, the broken promises, the abuse and lost children of our Indigenous peoples. Our hope is that our rocks will also witness the rebuilding of our relationships, the healing of hearts and unity for a better future.





Katarokwi Learning Centre

AVA BROWN AND JULIE BYERS

Kingston, ON

Ava and Julie led a group of a hundred other students from the Katarokwi Learning Centre in the building of a special shelter where teachings can be passed on in a culturally significant way. Having already acquired traditionally-harvested teepee poles, the Learning Centre purchased a teepee cover to complete the structure in the newly-constructed area by the school. The cover for the teepee was then decorated with the consultation of Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to guide students in the creative process.

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OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

Individual actions in collaborative projects is a way for everyone to work together to build new relationships. This new school site brought together previously separate schools and programs and this project will allow everyone regardless of their program to mix; to learn about reconciliation, to work with Indigenous/non-Indigenous students/staff/colleagues around Indigenous cultures and contribute as individuals to our new school identity. Reconciliation needs to be done in relationships for personally meaningful and lasting understandings.

St. James Collegiate

HONEY FLETT-FRAMPTON

Winnipeg, MB

Honey led twenty students in an initiative to transform their shared library space (St. James Collegiate and George Waters Middle School) into a space that flourishes with Indigenous language and culture. A local Métis artist and Knowledge Keeper, Kisa MacIsaac, partnered with students to create the mural and unveil it. The space has also been reimagined to foster discussion and reflection through a reimagining of the way the furniture has been arranged.

IMAGINE A CANADA

OUR THOUGHTS ON RECONCILIATION ARE:

Reconciliation is hope. We know that more Canadians are becoming aware of residential schools and MMIWG2S as well as other forms of systemic racism and this understanding is leading to change. We need to work together and learn together. We are still here.





École secondaire Jules-Verne

LIAM MONASH, MELODIE HO, AMALIA STATHONIKOS, AND THE COMITÉ VÉRITÉ RÉCONCILIATION

Vancouver, BC

The Truth and Reconciliation Committee of École secondaire Jules-Verne organized a forum on Indigenous cultures and the importance of decolonizing western systems, particularly the school system. They were advised by Tosha Lhertier, a Cree cultural facilitator, who led a beading workshop. The Truth and Reconciliation Committee is extremely active in organizing events around important days of commemoration, as well as fundraising for initiatives such as purchasing a flag of the Musqueam First Nation (upon whose unceded territory the school stands).

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OUR THOUGHTS ON
RECONCILIATION ARE:

We must act to ensure that Indigenous peoples benefit fully from their rights in their country. We must promote their cultures and knowledge as legitimate as "western" knowledge. We must decolonize all systems and structures.







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