



Traditional Knowledge

Presentation by Dr. Wilton Littlechild, IPC

**International Chief of Treaties 6, 7, 8 (Alberta)
and Grand Chief of Treaty No. 6**

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Traditional knowledge is knowledge, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity. (WIPO)
- The Intellectual and Cultural Heritage of Indigenous Peoples' is a critically important element to their lives and societies.





UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Preambular Paragraphs...

- Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,
- Affirming also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind,
- Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,
- Recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Article 11

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.



UN Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Article 12

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.





Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada - Key Findings

PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION:

1. UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples is **framework for reconciliation.**
2. First Nations, Inuit & Métis peoples have Treaty, **constitutional and Treaty rights that must be recognized & respected.**



TRC Key Findings

PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION:

3. Reconciliation is **process of healing relationships** that requires public truth sharing, apology, commemoration & redress of past harms.
4. Reconciliation **requires action to address destructive impacts** on Aboriginal education, language & culture, health, child welfare, administration of justice, economic opportunity & prosperity.

TRC Key Findings

PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION:

5. Reconciliation must create **more equitable society, closing gaps** in social, health & economic outcomes.
6. **All Canadians are Treaty peoples & share responsibility** for mutually respectful relationships.



TRC Key Findings

PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION:

7. Perspectives of **Aboriginal Elders & Knowledge Keepers** re concepts & practices of reconciliation are **vital** to long-term reconciliation.
8. **Aboriginal cultural revitalization, & integration of Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols & connection to land are essential to reconciliation process.**



TRC Key Findings

PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION:

9. Reconciliation **requires political will, joint leadership**, trust building, accountability, transparency, & **investment of resources**.
10. Reconciliation requires **sustained public education, dialogue, & youth engagement** about history & legacy of residential schools, Treaties & aboriginal rights, & past and present contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canadian society.





CANADA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES (JULY 2017)

1. All relations with Indigenous peoples need to be based on the **recognition** and **implementation** of their **right to self-determination**, including the inherent right of self-government.
2. **Reconciliation** is a **fundamental purpose** of **section 35** of the Constitution Act, 1982.



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CANADA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES (JULY 2017)

3. The **honour of the Crown** guides the conduct of the Crown in all of its **dealings** with Indigenous peoples.
4. Indigenous **self-government** is part of Canada's evolving **system of cooperative federalism and distinct orders** of government.



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CANADA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES (JULY 2017)

5. **Treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements** between Indigenous peoples and the Crown have been and are intended to be **acts of reconciliation** based on **mutual recognition and respect.**
6. **Meaningful engagement** with Indigenous peoples aims to secure their **free, prior, and informed consent** when Canada proposes to take actions which impact them and **their rights on their lands, territories, and resources.**

CANADA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES (JULY 2017)



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9. Reconciliation is an **ongoing process** that occurs in the context of **evolving Indigenous-Crown relationships**.

10. A **distinctions-based approach** is needed to ensure that the **unique rights, interests and circumstances of the First Nations, the Métis Nation and Inuit** are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented.



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Canada's Response on Calls to Action: Examples of Implementation

- Corporations/Private Industry
 - CAPP
 - Connoco-Phillips
 - Energy Forum
- Justice Communities
 - Judges
 - Police AGM
 - Law Societies
 - Benchers



Canada's Response on Calls to Action: Examples of Implementation

- Economic Reconciliation
 - AEDB
 - FN Joint Ventures (AB/SK)
 - Conferences (Oil and Gas/Pipelines)
- Universities and Colleges (Law, Medicine, Education)
 - Faculties of Law, Medicine, Education...
 - U and C 5 Year Plan

Canada's Response on Calls to Action: Examples of Implementation

- Public and Private School Administrations
 - Teachers Conferences
 - Principals and Administrators
 - Catholic School Trustees
 - FNMI Schools AGM
- Non-Profit Organizations
 - United Way
 - Heart and Stroke Foundation
 - Cancer
 - Philanthropic Associations



Canada's Response on Calls to Action: Examples of Implementation

- **Indigenous Peoples**
 - **Confederacy of Treaty 6 Priorities**
 - **Conferences**
 - **Constitutions**
 - **IWAP**
- **Others**
 - **Libraries AGMs**
 - **International Conferences**
 - UN Declaration 10th Anniversary
 - U of Colorado, HRC Geneva
 - **National Film Board**
 - **National Council on Reconciliation**





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