



**Truth and  
Reconciliation**  
Commission of Canada

Commission de  
**vérité et  
réconciliation**  
du Canada

## **The First Step Towards Reconciliation** **For Immediate release, Saturday, May 30, 2015**

OTTAWA -- Thousands of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians will participate in the Walk for Reconciliation to open the closing ceremonies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Sunday morning in Ottawa. The walk is organized in collaboration with Reconciliation Canada.

TRC Commissioners Justice Sinclair, Marie Wilson and Wilton Littlechild of the TRC, Indigenous leaders, Elders, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Parties to the Settlement Agreement, Honorary Witness Joe Juneau, Olympian Clara Hughes and many other dignitaries will walk for reconciliation, which begins at Gatineau's École Secondaire de l'Île and ends at Marion Dewar Plaza at Ottawa City Hall via Portage Bridge and Victoria Island.

"This is a significant act, an important beginning on the path to reconciliation," said TRC chair Justice Murray Sinclair. "Each person that attends, every step that they take, is a step forward that moves us toward a shared future and a better tomorrow."

The walk will cross Victoria Island and pass Parliament Hill, symbolizing the importance of having Indigenous and Canadian political leaders work together in committing to reconciliation.

"It's not a question of whether people believe reconciliation will happen, it's whether they believe it should happen. And if they believe it should happen, then it will," Sinclair said. "Everyone that is coming to the walk, the people bussing in from other cities, demonstrates to us that Canadians believe it should happen."

The Walk for Reconciliation is the first flagship event of the TRC's closing events, which run from Sunday to Wednesday. Following the walk, entertainment will be provided by up-and-coming Aboriginal artists, including Amanda Rhéaume, Elisapie Isaac and Digging Roots.

The TRC was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement with a mandate to tell Canadians about the 150-year history of the schools, in part through the statements of those whose lives were affected by them.

"Reconciliation is a process that involves everyone from all sectors, that is what this walk is about," Sinclair said. "It will take time and it will not be easy, but we need to start this journey today, so that our children and future generations can finish it."

Other events for the closing ceremonies will take place across Ottawa until Wednesday. A full program is available online at [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca).

### About the TRC

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to tell Canadians about the 150-year history of the schools in part through the statements of those whose lives were affected by them. The TRC seeks to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

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