



**Truth and
Reconciliation**
Commission of Canada

Commission de
**vérité et
réconciliation**
du Canada

Media Protocol for Journalists Covering TRC Events/Sharing Circles

The following information and guidelines are provided to assist journalists covering TRC events and Sharing Circles. We ask that these protocols are respected and adhered to for the safety of survivors and others, in keeping with the principles of the Commission. Upon arrival at the National Event, journalists are asked to register and pick up their passes before proceeding to the Sharing Circles, panels or events, and to identify themselves accordingly on site. Media Relations staff are available to assist journalists with relevant information, media contacts and arranging interviews.

Introduction

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada welcomes the media to witness and hear the truths of Survivors and their families, former school staff and others who choose to share with the Commission, in a public setting, their experiences about the impacts of residential schools.

Protocols - Public Statement Gathering

- Journalists are permitted to audio record, photograph (non-flash) or film the proceedings unless otherwise directed by the facilitator of the Sharing Circle.
- The facilitator, from time to time, will remind the audience of the presence of media in the forum and that recording of the event is happening.
- In the event of a call for an in-camera session by the facilitator, journalists will be asked to stop recording and/or leave the public forum immediately until otherwise notified.
- Journalists are asked to respect the speakers when talking so as not to distract them; i.e. no camera lights or flashes. Cell phones or Blackberry devices must be turned off during Sharing Circles. Laptops may be used provided they do not distract speakers.
- Journalists are not allowed to ask questions during Sharing Circles.
- All interviews and scrums must occur away from Sharing Circles. If you must talk, do so away from the forum.
- Journalist must respect individual Survivors' wishes not to have their story told for publication or production.

Protocols - Ceremonies

- Journalists are permitted to audio record, photograph (non-flash) or film the proceedings unless otherwise directed by the emcee of the forum.
- When a spiritual leader asks that certain practices and ceremonies are not to be recorded or photographed by any means, this request must be respected. Failure to do so may result in the journalist being asked to leave immediately.

(cont'd)

Media inquiries:

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Media Restrictions

- Some areas of the event has been identified exclusively for Survivors and their families, as indicated on the program agenda (e.g. Survivor Lounge, Cultural Support Service Area, and instances where a Survivor is speaking with a Health Support Worker).
- In addition, areas where private statement gathering sessions are being conducted are restricted to media. Media are asked to respect the privacy of those involved.

Use of Language

- Indian Residential Schools should be used on first mention of the institutions. On following mentions, residential schools can be used.
- Those who attended residential schools are survivors, not victims.
- CP Style prefers lowercase aboriginal (adj., n.) when referring to an individual.
- When referring to Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations, CP Style recommends Aboriginal Peoples. If referring to a group more casually, use Aboriginal people, never Aboriginals.
- In some instances, "Aboriginal" is used to reference the legal definition, while generally the academy and International bodies have preferred "Indigenous". Canadian law continues to use Aboriginal however and is therefore used most frequently.
- Be aware of tendencies to group all Indigenous peoples' interests and issues together.
- Use the individual's preference for identity.

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