

Year of Reconciliation in the City of Vancouver

Celebrations for Reconciliation Week
(September 16 -22, 2013)

History of Residential Schools

Over 130 residential schools across the country, starting in the 1870s. The last school closed in 1996.

Over 150,000 Aboriginal children were removed from their families and sent to residential schools, with the aim to abolish their culture.

More than 80,000 former students are living today. The ongoing impact of residential schools has been felt through several generations.



On the Path to Reconciliation

2008 - Prime Minister of Canada issued a formal apology



2009 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission created



2013 - Reconciliation Canada formed

Year of Reconciliation: Partners

TRC, Reconciliation Canada, COV

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

- inform all Canadians on the history of residential schools
- host national events
- create a historical record of and build a national research centre on the residential school experience

Reconciliation Canada

- non-profit organization
- Two partners: Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society and Tides Canada Initiatives Society
- fosters dialogue and engagement between public and aboriginal people



City of Vancouver: City of Reconciliation

Council proclaimed June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014 the *Year of Reconciliation* in the City of Vancouver

On June 20, Council co-hosted an intercultural celebration and dialogue with Reconciliation Canada, announced Proclamation for the Year of Reconciliation

Vancouver will become the world's first 'City of Reconciliation'



Reconciliation Week Activities

Date(s) 2013	Event
September 16	Lighting the Flame of Reconciliation.
September 17	All Nations Canoe Gathering
September 18-21	Residential school story-gathering, education and academic dialogue (PNE)
September 22	A Walk for Reconciliation
September 22	A New Way Forward Ceremony at Creekside Park

Funding Requests (from both TRC and RC)

Item	Amount Requested
Banner installation & removal	\$27,048
Printing of banners	\$22,000
Permits and fees for Canoe Gathering	\$12,000
Permits & fees for the Walk	\$60,000
Usage of QE Plaza at the start of the walk & AV set up plus rental	\$7,509
Permits for lighting of sacred fire	\$20
Usage of PNE for 4 days of TRC events - rental	\$192,250
Operation costs at PNE for 4 days	\$213,835
Total funding requested from City of Vancouver:	\$534,662

Conclusion

Support for Reconciliation Week programs and activities will:

- Demonstrate Council's commitment towards reconciliation;
- To act as a leader in furthering the long term work of reconciliation; and
- Engage the broader public and our diverse citizens in developing new relationships and to move forward with a shared understanding and respect.

