

RENEWAL & RECONCILIATION OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW AND KEY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

General Summary

The Renewal and Reconciliation section brings this resource full circle. The learning experiences place learners at the centre of the treaty relationship as the people who will determine its future strength and meaning. The content in this pilot version addresses the Treaty Renewal period and shares learning opportunities for Truth and Reconciliation.

Treaty Renewal

The Treaty Renewal learning experiences provide students with an overview of the Nation's efforts and successes with renewing the treaty relationship since the 1970s. It is during this period that the treaty relationship was recognized by the highest law in Canada: it was enshrined in the Constitution and affirmed by the Supreme Court multiple times. These legal decisions and events began to transform many aspects of the relationship between Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq in significant and longstanding ways. Requirements to engage Indigenous people—a process called *consultation*—have become normal practice for many businesses and organizations. Indigenous peoples are increasingly able to articulate their priorities and needs vis-a-vis a range of sectors across Canadian society through these developments.

Many elements of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) emerge from the decades that precede the TRC and its calls to action. The roots of reconciliation are found in community organizations and Mi'kmaw leadership throughout this time period. An important learning experience, Roots of Reconciliation, anchors later LEs that address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its impacts.

Treaty Day

Treaty Day is an important (and easily accessible) way for both learners and teachers to witness and to engage the treaty relationship. The day was established between the Mi'kmaq and the British as part of the 1752 Treaty, although it was not recognized until Kji-Saqmaw Donald Marshall Sr. revived it in 1986. While you won't see a dedicated section to Treaty Day in the Roots of Reconciliation pilot, students will get to think about Treaty Day's

history in the learning experiences to follow.

Truth and Reconciliation

The Truth and Reconciliation's 94 Calls to Action sought to change the lives of Indigenous people through direct action undertaken by all Canadians. After nationwide hearings, the final report identified multiple impacts of the residential schools on Indigenous peoples, including: education, health, culture and more. The report concluded that Canada's goal for the residential schools was cultural genocide: a painful truth. The learning experiences in Renewal and Reconciliation are forward-looking and ask learners to think about what changes need to be made today to bring equity to Indigenous lives across Mi'kma'ki and beyond. As with the other themes in this section, the learning experiences emphasize the role that learners today will play in creating a future that is different from the past.

KEY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Here, you'll find the Renewal and Reconciliation learning experiences that are available in the pilot version of Roots of Reconciliation. Stay tuned for many more when the full version is released in 2024!

- Roots of Reconciliation (RR2)
- Honouring Rights Today: A Mock Consultation (RR3)
- Reconciliation Brainstorm (RR7)