Walking Together

A CBOQ Resource for Truth and Reconciliation

For use in worship, prayer and learning on or around September 30

SEPTEMBER 2026

September 21–25
Truth and Reconciliation Week

Sunday, September 27
An opportunity to recognize Truth and Reconciliation in worship

Wednesday, September 30
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



September 30 Invites Us to Listen

Each year on September 30, we mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is a day to honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, Survivors, their families and their communities. It is also an invitation to listen, to learn and to consider how each of us can take part in the ongoing work of reconciliation.

For us as the CBOQ family, this is not simply something we recognize one day each year.

We believe we are called to walk together in humility, prayer and relationship. That begins by listening to the voices and experiences of Indigenous peoples, acknowledging the harm that has been done, and being willing to learn what it means to build right relationships today.

CBOQ is also honoured to walk alongside Indigenous churches within our own family: Ohsweken Baptist Church, First Oneida Baptist Church and Mistissini Faith Bible Chapel. Their presence, ministry and leadership are an important part of who we are as CBOQ.

This September, we invite every CBOQ church to make space to remember, listen, learn and pray.

Reconciliation does not begin and end on September 30. This day gives us an opportunity to stop and ask how we will continue walking together throughout the rest of the year.

CANADIAN BAPTISTS of Ontario and Quebec

A Time of Prayer and Reflection

The following can be incorporated into your worship gathering on Sunday, September 27, or used by a small group, ministry team or congregation on September 30.

An Invitation to Listen

Today we make space to remember.

We remember the Indigenous children who were taken from their families and communities and placed in residential schools.

We honour Survivors, their families and communities, and we recognize that the impact of residential schools did not end when the schools closed.

We also recognize that the Church was part of this history.

As followers of Jesus, we choose not to turn away from difficult truths. We listen. We lament. We learn. And we ask God to help us become people who seek justice, healing and right relationship.

Today, we pray together.

Scripture Micah 6:8

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

A Prayer for Walking Together

Creator God,

Today we come before you ready to listen.

We remember the children who were taken from their homes, families and communities and sent to residential schools. We remember those who never returned home. We honour Survivors, their families and the generations who continue to carry the impact of what happened.

We confess that churches and Christian institutions were part of systems that caused deep harm. Give us the courage not to turn away from that truth.

Teach us to listen before we speak.

Teach us to learn before we assume.

Teach us to walk humbly with one another.

We pray for Indigenous communities across this land. We pray for healing where there has been hurt, justice where there has been injustice, and hope for generations to come.

And within our own CBOQ family, we pray for our Indigenous brothers and sisters and the communities and churches they serve.

May reconciliation be more than something we talk about.

Show us how to live it.

Help us to walk together in a good way.

Amen.

- Make Space to Listen
- Following the prayer, consider leaving a period of silence.
- Do not rush to fill it.
- Allow your congregation time to remember, reflect and pray.

Listen. Learn. Remember.

One of the most important things we can do on the journey toward reconciliation is listen to Indigenous voices.

Rather than trying to tell someone else's story, we encourage our CBOQ family to make space for Indigenous people to tell their own stories, share their experiences and teach us.

Start Here

Truth and Reconciliation Week 2026

September 21–25

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is offering free opportunities to learn throughout the week, including online Lunch and Learn sessions and educational resources.

Continue Learning

A Good Way

CBOQ is proud to participate in the National Learning Circle and to point our churches toward A Good Way.

A Good Way brings together resources created to help churches and individuals listen, learn and grow in their understanding of Indigenous peoples, history, reconciliation and relationship.

You do not need to learn everything at once.

- Choose one resource.
- Watch one story.
- Have one conversation.
- Then keep going.

AGOODWAY.CA

Hear Stories

From Within CBOQ

Our Walking Together webpage also includes stories and videos that help us listen to Indigenous voices and learn more about Indigenous churches within the CBOQ family.

We encourage churches to spend time with these stories, not simply on September 30, but throughout the year.

What Happens After September 30?

Reconciliation cannot be reduced to a date on the calendar.

September 30 can be a beginning, or another step along a journey your church has already started.

Wherever your congregation is on that journey, consider taking one next step.

Listen

Make space for Indigenous voices.

Listen to the experiences of Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous leaders and communities. Resist the temptation to immediately respond or explain. Begin by listening.

Learn

Learn about the land and Indigenous communities around your church.

Do you know whose traditional territory your church gathers on? Do you know the Indigenous communities near you? Do you know something of their history and their present-day community?

Learning names and history is important. Relationship takes us further.

Pray

Continue praying after September 30.

Pray for Survivors and their families. Pray for Indigenous children, youth, leaders, churches and communities. Pray for justice and healing. Pray for wisdom and humility for the Church.

And pray for our Indigenous churches within CBOQ and the communities they serve.

Build Relationship

Consider what it could mean for your congregation to build relationships locally.

Do not begin by asking, "What can our church do for you?"

Begin by learning who your neighbours are.

Listen.
Show up.
Learn.

Allow relationship to develop.

Take One Next Step

Before leaving this resource behind, ask one question together:

What is one thing our church will do differently because of what we have heard and learned?

Write it down.
Return to it.
And keep walking.

Keep Walking

More resources, stories and opportunities for learning are available through CBOQ's Walking Together resource page and our partner, A Good Way.

Truth is not something we recognize for one day. Reconciliation is something we continue to live.