Researching the Land FOR RECONCILIATION

WHY RESEARCH FIRST NATIONS HISTORY OF THE LAND?

Heart learning. It is about heart learning because history is about people.

Knowledge. Expand your knowledge and ideas. Understand that history continues to affect both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people today.

Hands. With knowledge comes the responsibility to take action. This involves humility, a listening spirit, and the willingness to serve.

For more heart, head, and hands learning resources, visit http://aboriginalministry.wordpress.com
What does the Bible say about reconciliation?

"Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

Matthew 5:23-24

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STEPS FOR HEART LEARNING

1. Look, Listen, and Learn with humility.

Encountering social issues may bring unsettled feelings. When we have feelings like this we often seek closure to make it less uncomfortable. Know that you cannot fully understand or fix the problem.

This is a relationship, and relationships take time.
2. **Steps for Knowledge**

- Place names: research the origin of local geographical names. Are they derived from an Indigenous language? From here you can research the culture of that particular Indigenous nation.

- Read: Locate historical articles about local First Nations history, and treaty agreements between European settlers and First Nations people.

- Culture: Develop new cultural perspectives. Learn about the differences between European and First Nations culture.

3. **Action for Reconciliation**

- Equipped with Heart Learning and Knowledge, stand up against injustice and encourage awareness about social issues.

- Visit museums, cultural centres, and residential school sites.

- As a respectful guest, visit local First Nations community cultural events that foster community relationships.

- Pray. Humbly ask God how He can use you in the journey of reconciliation.
Food for Thought:
Remember the Two-Row Wampum as a symbol for peace and reconciliation.

What is the Two Row Wampum?

The Two Row Wampum is a treaty agreement made between representatives of the Dutch government and the Five Nations of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) in 1613. The treaty is recorded through a white and purple bead belt.

The 3 white stripes of the Two Row Wampum belt represent peace and friendship.

The 2 purple strips represent two ships (a European ship and an Indigenous canoe) traveling the same river of Life together, yet not touching as they follow their individual courses.

Heart Learning: A Prayer for Reconciliation

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

- Francis of Assisi