



Wiping the Tears:

From the Shadows to Reconciliation Condolence Ceremony

Basket of Truth and Reconciliation: Learn, Reflect, Act

Join us in exploring and understanding the history and experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada. As a precursor to the “Wiping the Tears: From the Shadows to Reconciliation” Condolence Ceremonies in October, we invite you to share your stories of truth, grief, or reconciliation and put it in the basket.

At the ceremony, these collective words will be burned in a ceremonial fire, representing our grief for our shared history and a commitment to reconciliation in the future. Afterwards, the baskets will remain on each SLC campus to remind us of this important milestone in our communities’ healing.

Select one or more questions from the following, write your answer, and place it in the basket:

Reflection on Tradition

1. What are some family traditions you have? Who started these traditions? How have they been passed down in your family?
2. Can you think of a tradition that your family or community no longer practices? Why did it stop? What was the effect and what could be the impact of reviving it?
3. Have you ever learned about or participated in a tradition from a culture different from your own? What did that experience teach you about the value of cultural diversity and mutual respect?

Reflection on Language

1. What language did you speak in your home growing up? How did you learn? Do you speak any other languages? If so, how did you learn them?
2. How does language contribute to your identity? Does it influence your community connections? Imagine if you were not allowed to speak your first language in your home and were punished at school for doing so. How would that affect your life?
3. Reflect on a time when you faced a language barrier. How did this affect your ability to communicate and connect with others? How might this relate to the experiences of Indigenous peoples striving to revive their native languages?

Reflection on Family

1. Who are you closest to in your family? Why are you so close? What are some joyful experiences you have shared in your lives together? What are some family stories that have been passed down about your parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc.? Have any stuck with you? Why?



2. Imagine being taken from your family or having a close family member being taken away. How would this have affected your personal development and sense of identity? How does this reflection help you empathize with the experiences of those separated from their families by policies like those enforced in residential schools?
3. How can families play a role in the reconciliation process? What actions can families take to learn about and engage with the truths of Canada’s history with Indigenous peoples, and how can these actions contribute to broader societal reconciliation?

Reflection on Community

1. What communities do you belong to? What makes them ‘work’? How do you benefit from being part of a community? What community activities do you participate in? Does participation in these affect your sense of belonging? How so?
2. Have you ever played a leadership role in a community? What role do leaders have? How are events organized and communicated? How are disputes settled in communities? What impact would the loss of leadership have on community? What impact would the loss of membership have on leadership?
3. Imagine being part of a community impacted by the loss of leadership, membership, or both. How could this community regain functionality? Reflect on the historical and ongoing losses in Indigenous communities, much a result of colonialism. How do you feel about this? How can this situation be improved?

Let us engage in meaningful dialogue, reflect on our perspectives, and act toward reconciliation and understanding.