



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

Message from the Governor General to Queen's University Reconciliation Program Alumni

I am pleased to extend greetings to the participants of this Queen's University educational event on Truth and Reconciliation.

We cannot remain indifferent to the immense pain stemming from the disastrous policies that devastated Indigenous communities. So many of our sisters and brothers were torn from their families, suffered unspeakable abuse, lost their language and their culture. Too many died or disappeared without a trace. And we know that the impacts of intergenerational trauma continue to be felt by the Survivors.

Reconciliation is a complex and multifaceted issue. It involves acknowledging the suffering of victims and having challenging conversations about some of the darkest moments in our history. It is a process that affects us all and requires the ongoing efforts of everyone.

There have already been positive, incremental changes since the initial shock following the discovery of unmarked graves, but there is still much to do. Every step, large and small, toward reconciliation will help us move forward as a nation and foster healthier, stronger and more sustainable communities.

As we are getting closer to the 2022 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, let us honour the children who never returned home, the residential school Survivors, and their families and communities. Let us reaffirm our commitment to work together to build a more inclusive society and world, no matter what challenges we face.

Mary Simon