

FIX YOUR SIDE OF THE FEATHER



A WELCOME TO SURVIVORS, DESCENDANTS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

This resource was created by AWBW facilitator Nikki Crow, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, whose grandmother was a survivor of Carlisle Indian Industrial School, the first U.S. Indian boarding school. Nikki offers this as an invitation to journey, a way for indigenous and non-indigenous, walking side by side, to honor the children, creating space for truth and openly actively committing to reconciliation.

This action is open to all ages.

Context: September 30th, 2021, marked the 1st annual National Day for Truth & Reconciliation in Canada and a National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools. It is a day to honor the lost children and survivors of residential and boarding schools, as well as their families and communities, and to acknowledge the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of Indian residential schools in Canada and the U.S. Indian boarding schools. It is a day to honor the children who survived these institutions, and remember the countless children who did not return home.

This is a critical moment in time where action is required *every day*. It is important that more is done to “break the silence and begin the healing” of those impacted by historical Indian residential and boarding schools. We need to embed truth, justice and healing into our everyday lives. Action can start with asking the question: What acts of truth, healing and justice can I engage in regularly? In this window of time, we invite you to tell us/everyone you know, one way you will take action towards truth, justice and healing.

Suggestions: This worksheet is offered as a space for your body, heart and spirit to speak as you begin your journey of truth, healing and justice. You can also use a real feather, or other art supplies (wood, sticks, cardboard, shrinky dinks) to create your feather as an object you can carry as a reminder for your journey.

- 1. Reflect on Truth:** One recommended site is: The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition: boardingschoolhealing.org. Use the worksheet to process and express what you are learning or already know.
- 2. Reflect on Healing and Justice:** What acts of healing and justice are you hearing, learning, dreaming and/or talking about? Small or large, possible or impossible, honor what comes to you.
- 3. Create Your Side of the Feather:** Reflect on the role each of us can play with the following questions: What is one way I will take action towards truth, justice and healing? How will I honor truth, healing and justice every day? What is my part? What is one thing I’m committing to doing this year towards truth, healing and justice? (e.g. “I will share my story”) On the worksheet, or with other supplies, create your feather to carry.
- 4. Journey Together:** This will be an ongoing journey together, walking side by side, creating space for truth and openly actively committing to truth, healing and reconciliation. The work of listening to and sharing the truth, and walking toward healing, justice and reconciliation is the work of EVERY day.

Upload your feather and journey together: awbw.org/feather

INVITING YOU TO WALK WITH US...

We, as indigenous people, are repairing our feathers and working towards healing and justice. You are invited to use your feather to reflect on your healing and steps you can take towards justice. You can take this time to explore what is happening “on the other side of the feather”. We are all needed, all connected. Your feather matters.

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A TRUTH, HEALING AND JUSTICE JOURNEY

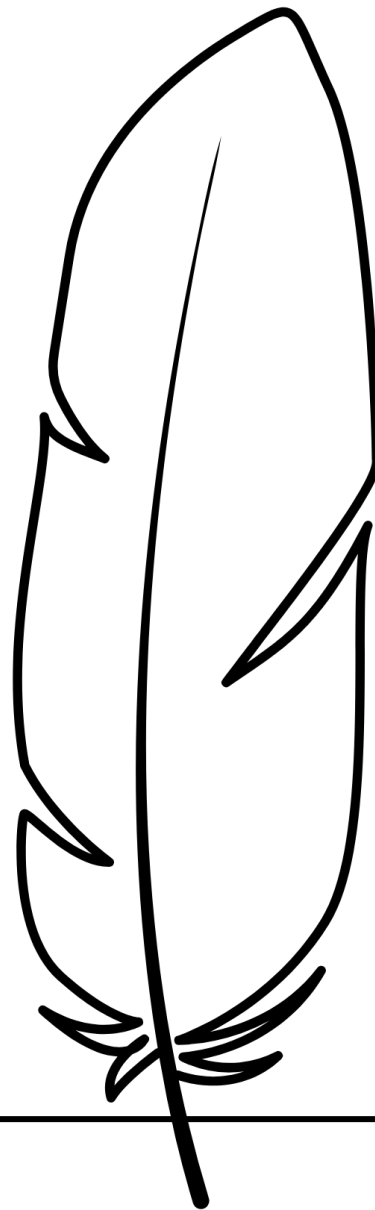
This workshop is an invitation for indigenous and non-indigenous, walking side by side, to honor the children of the U.S. boarding and Canada residential schools, creating space for truth and openly actively committing to reconciliation.

Directions: Use words, shapes, symbols and/or colors in the four areas of the page below to express:

- **Truth:** What truths are you hearing, learning, discovering, thinking and/or talking of?
- **Healing and Justice:** What acts of healing and justice are you hearing, dreaming and/or talking of?
- **Your Feather:** In your feature, name one way you will take action toward truth, justice and healing..
- **Everyday's Work:** This is the work of every day. How will you anchor your journey forward?

TRUTH

HEALING/JUSTICE



EVERYDAY'S WORK