



For the child taken,
For the parent left behind.

What to Expect from the Northern National Event June 28-July 1, 2011 Inuvik, NWT

National Events are an important part of the TRC mandate and are intended to share and record the truth of those people affected by the Residential School System.

Hosted in the Town of Inuvik, NWT from June 28 to July 1, 2011, this event will offer a unique experience from Canada's North. The courage and resilience of residential school survivors and their families will be shared with Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

Activities will be in and around the Midnight Sun Complex and Jim Koe Park. Additional locations will be finalized and announced in the coming weeks.

Traditional Ceremonies

Throughout the Northern National Event, traditional ceremonies will mark the official opening, closing and appropriate moments. These ceremonies will be relevant and respectful of traditional protocols of the North.

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Tuesday June 28, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. and the Closing Ceremony will be on Friday July 1, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Truth Telling

Residential school survivors are a focal point of the National Event. They will be given the opportunity to Share their Truth and how the experience has affected them and their families. This can happen in a public forum or in private through the Statement Gathering process.

A variety of Health Supports will be available. Professional counseling will be accessible through Health Canada registered service providers. Emotional support will be provided through a network of Aboriginal Regional Health Support Workers. Cultural supports will be provided by Elders.



Public Education

The Northern National Event is an opportunity to explain residential school history and its legacy to the general public. These activities include sharing circles, stage performances, films, plays, youth programming and a learning tent.

Reconciliation

Gestures, actions and intentions of reconciliation will occur on behalf of governments, churches, the business sector, communities, individuals and committed groups of citizens. This helps to acknowledge the past and move forward with a mutual understanding of lessons learned.

Commemoration

Commemoration is defined in the TRC mandate as: Honoring, educating, remembering, memorializing and/or paying tribute to residential school former students, their families and their communities and acknowledging their experiences and the broad and systemic impacts of the residential school system. The National event is a public forum where commemoration initiatives are recognized.

Cultural and Artistic Expression

Artists have a profound contribution to make in expressing both truth and reconciliation. The Northern National Event provides a space to showcase artistic collaborations of reconciliation, healing and inspiration. It is also a place to celebrate the emerging and evolving cultural expression of our peoples.

Witnessing

During each ceremony, sharing circle and Calls to Gather, witnesses (from across the country) will be called upon to fulfill the traditional role of observing and recalling the transfer of knowledge.

Regional Hearings

The Northern Hearings raise awareness and help promote the Northern National Event. The Commissioners will visit 19 communities throughout the regions of Nunavik, Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the Yukon providing survivors with the opportunity to reflect on and share their experiences as momentum builds towards the Northern National Event.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 150 year history of the Residential Schools, and guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.