

From 2008–2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established as a response to the legacy of the Residential School System, and offered those affected the opportunity to share their stories. In its final report, it recommended 94 “calls to action” for all levels of government, including policy changes in areas such as health and education, and for all Canadians. The Commission has set the direction, but it is up to us to see it through.

*“The truth telling and reconciliation process as part of an overall holistic and comprehensive response to the Indian Residential School legacy is a sincere indication and acknowledgement of the injustices and harms experienced by Aboriginal people and the need for continued healing.”*

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

In February 2017, the first of several joint meetings between Northumberland County and Alderville First Nation was held. It is a program initiated by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in an attempt to build relationships between municipalities and Indigenous communities. Chief James Marsden stated in Northumberland Today that *“this is about building a better country, collectively...reconciliation between communities”*.

Canada may have formally become a country in 1867, but it was profoundly shaped by what came before. We can only hope to learn from this heritage, navigating the troubled waters of our collective pasts to a shared vision of 21st century Canada.

