

September 30, 2024

Statement on National Truth and Reconciliation Day

On National Truth and Reconciliation Day, Evangel Hall Mission (EHM) reflects on the profound and painful impact of residential schools and colonialism on Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This day is dedicated to remembering the children who never returned home, honouring survivors, and supporting their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital part of the reconciliation process. By acknowledging these impacts, we work towards healing and understanding how this history continues to affect First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples today.

What Reconciliation Means in Canada:

Reconciliation involves acknowledging the wrongs done to Indigenous Peoples in Canada and understanding the role each of us plays in these injustices while working together to heal. It requires respecting Indigenous Peoples' rights, cultures, and traditions. This ongoing commitment aims to build better relationships and address the legacy of colonialism.

Understanding the Legacy of Residential Schools

At EHM, we see this legacy every day:

- While Indigenous people represent 2% of the population in Toronto:
 - 15% of people experiencing homelessness identify as Indigenous.
 - 23% of people staying outdoors identify as Indigenous, with two-thirds staying in encampments.
- Indigenous people are more likely to experience chronic homelessness, to first experience homelessness as children/youth, and to have foster care experience EHM also honours the lives of over 4,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, killed, or gone missing in Canada over the past 30 years.
- Indigenous women represent 10% of the total population of missing women in Canada.
- Indigenous women are six times more likely to be murdered than non-Indigenous women.
- This violence has been acknowledged by the Government of Canada as an outcome of state actions and inactions rooted in colonialism and colonial ideologies.

Please join EHM in our work to advance reconciliation:

- Advocate for increased affordable and subsidized housing for Indigenous people.
- Advocate for increased awareness of, and support for, Indigenous women at risk for and living with violence.
- Learn about Canada's colonial history, and the impact of the harm caused by governments, churches, charities, and social service agencies.

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territories:

EHM operates on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Huron-Wendat Peoples. This land is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We respect their connection to these lands and their ongoing presence.