

Msowe Giizhigad Debwewin miiniwaa Aanji-boongide'etaadiwin
The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Sept 30, 2021

Gdoo-biidaagoom ndi-nmikaagewin. Kina gdi-nwendaaganinaanig.
Ndoo-miigwechiwendaami, msowe-akiing, miiniwaa maanda bimaadizowin
We bring greetings to Creation. We bring greetings to all our relations.
We give thanks for this day, this world, and this life.

This is a time for mourning. We mourn the children hurt and lost and who died in the grip of residential and day schools. We mourn the loss of their young lives and lost contributions. We mourn for the faces forever erased.

This is a time for remembrance. We remember all who attended residential schools and the effect upon their lives. We remember all who survived and their lives. We remember all who brought the actions of the schools to our attention. We remember all who help to heal from their experience.

This is a time for truth. We tell the truth of what happened. We tell it loud and clear and often. We tell the truth so what happened can never happen again. We tell the truth as an act of healing.

This is a time for love. We act with love for all our relations. We act with love for those whose lives were affected by residential schools. We act with love to heal.

This is a time for respect. We respect the experiences of those who attended residential schools. We act with respect to those who are healing. We act with respect for those who seek to create places of dignity and respect for all our relations.

This is a time for humility. We stand with humility in the face of unimaginable loss. We stand with humility with those lost and those hurt and those healing.

This is a time for bravery. We act with bravery and courage as we reclaim our lands, our languages, our cultures, and our lives. We act with bravery as we confront the past, heal the present and create our futures.

This is a time for honesty. We speak with honesty about the past, about our present and our future. We never avert our eyes from the truth of what happened. We live with the honesty of our pasts.

This is a time for wisdom. We learn from what happened. We act to ensure the past is not repeated. We act with the knowledge that we are still here. We act to celebrate the resilience of our ancestors and those who are building our world today. We strive to live well with all our relations.

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