



# Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve

## Dear TTR Members,

As many of you are aware, TTR is in the process of implementing the TTR Youth Empowerment & Community Reconciliation Initiative. The development of this program is possible thanks to the funding provided by the NIB Trust Fund and TTR Chief & Council.

It is important to mention that the TTR Youth Empowerment & Community Reconciliation Initiative was created to:

- Get to the root of the numerous issues that are currently harming community members and particularly the youth.
- Assess the level of impacts of the Residential Schools in the community to develop a strategy and gain control over its healing and reconciliation process based on TTR's unique experiences.
- Facilitate a safe space where community members can learn to acknowledge the past and, with guidance and the support of Elders
- Develop a Community-Based Strategy to address and mitigate the impacts of the Residential Schools to secure a sustainable and meaningful reconciliation process.

On May 24th, 2023, TTR had the first Engagement Meeting, where we discussed the program with many of TTR Elders, who provided important feedback and input. We thank them for their valuable participation.

We have also started a survey process in the community to determine TTR's perspective and experiences associated with the impacts of the Residential School System at TTR. The results of these surveys would assist with the final report and recommendations moving forward.

We wanted to thank everyone for their support and input in this important initiative, and we want also to share this newsletter to share the activities and information about the program.

Miigwech!

Don Clarke



**Please send your thoughts/feedback and/or inquiries to:**  
**dclarke@kokopelli.ca and/or**  
**Box 49, Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve, Manitoba**  
**R0L 2L0**

## Next Meeting

SEPTEMBER

20

**Open to all Community Members**  
**September 20th, 2023**  
**10 am**  
**(TTR Hall)**

We will have lunch for all attendees and Door Prices!!!

TTR Elders (+65) and/or Residential School Survivors who lived at the school premises will receive honorarium for their participation.  
See you there!

The meeting has been designed to explore positive ideas that can assist our community and our members in addressing the direct and indirect impacts of the Indian Residential School System based on members' personal experiences and recommendations moving forward. Considering the sensitive information that will be shared, the minimum age required to participate in this meeting is 18. TTR Members under 18 are welcome to assist if accompanied by a parent and/or guardian.

## LOGO CONTEST:

Our TTR Residential School Research Project needs a logo that can illustrate our thoughts and feelings about this subject.

- Logo must be done by free hand drawing and must be submitted before September 29th, 2023.
- Logo must represent the Indian Residential School system from TTR's perspective;
- Artist that creates the selected logo must signed a Logo Design Release Form;
- The Artist that creates the selected logo will receive \$500.00

Example: The Survivors' Flag, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation



# The Indian Residential School System



Illustrations by Donald Chrétien  
An Overview of the Indian Residential School System



**Trigger Warning: readers and participants in this program may be triggered by the recount of Indian Residential Schools**

The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line is available 24-hours a day for anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of his or her Residential school experience.

**Toll Free: 1-800-721-0066**

## Indian Residential School Overview:

- The goal of Indian residential schools was to assimilate Indians into society.
- The Canadian government operated Indian residential schools in partnership with the Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, among others.
- The Canadian government was financially responsible for Indian residential schools.
- Indian residential schools operated in all Canadian provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland.
- Indian residential schools operated in Canada between the 1870s and the 1990s.
- The last Indian residential school closed in 1996.
- Children between the ages of 4-16 attended Indian residential schools.
- It is estimated that over 150,000 Indian, Inuit, and Métis children attended Indian residential schools.

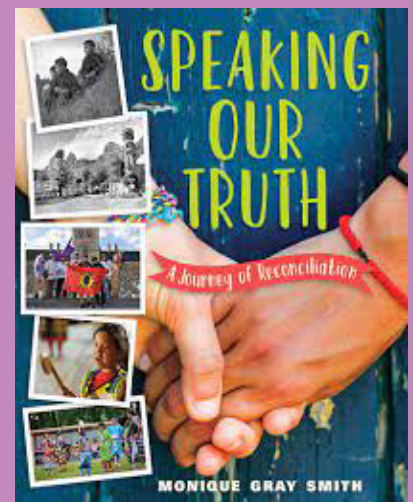
## Engagement Meeting, May 24th, 2023

### Highlights:

- Positive first engagement session with Elders, based on the principles of respect.
- Elders shared their perspectives and expectations on the TTR Reconciliation Process.
- Elders shared that some people who suffered from trauma haven't been able to share their experiences with their families. There needs to be a mechanism that facilitates information sharing in a sensitive matter with the support of specialists.
- Youth and Children need to know their identities and understand their origins.
- The key to reconciliation is community unity. The community needs to work harder on recovering the sense of community.
- TTR needs a space to meet and discuss issues that affect community members and elders.
- The healing process must acknowledge the ancestors, especially the parents of the Residential School Survivors, as they experienced the loss of their children.
- Elders would like to contact the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation to be part of the national reconciliation process. <https://nctr.ca/contact/>
- Language recovery programs should be used as a tool for healing.
- Some elders are working on establishing a Memorial at TTR to ensure that people don't forget about what people suffered at the Residential Schools.
- Elders completed surveys that provided important feedback for identifying a strategy to address the impacts of the residential schools at TTR.

## Speaking Our Truth, shares the stories of survivors,

Monique Smith emphasizes that the truth, no matter how difficult, must be spoken in order for there to be reconciliation and healing for generations to come.



We have 5 copies of this book, which are currently circulating in the community. These books belong to TTR, so when you finish reading it, please return it to the library located outside of the Health Center, so others can read it too.