

## History of the Healing Fund



In recognizing its historic complicity in imposing cultural and religious superiority over Indigenous nations through the Indian Residential School System, the United Church of Canada established the Healing Fund to address this harmful legacy carried by survivors, their children and their communities.

In addition, the General Council challenged all United Church members and others in Canadian society to learn about the history of these schools and their impact.

The Healing Fund was established by the resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> General Council (1994), the highest court of The United Church of Canada. It forms part of the response of the United Church to support Indigenous communities as they reclaim their cultures, languages, and spiritual and traditional knowledges. The United Church of Canada embraces this responsibility as a step in living out the United Church Apology to Indigenous Peoples (1986) and the Apology to Former Students of United Church Indian Residential School and to their families and communities (1998).

Today, the Healing Fund continues as an educational and fundraising campaign of The United Church of Canada to continue walking with and supporting Indigenous communities across the country.

## Past Healing Fund Projects

Since 1994, approximately 500 projects out of 1,300 applications received have received support.

The Healing Fund has supported monuments honouring the children removed from their homes during the Sixties Scoop, in which Indigenous children were sent to foster or adoptive families. A documentary telling the story from the perspective of adoptees was promoted. In the summer of 2015, a weekend gathering invited adoptees to participate

in ceremony, storytelling, art therapy, and sharing circles to introduce and reinforce Indigenous knowledge in a supportive setting.



### **Kispiox RSS, B.C.**

Kispiox Rediscovery project provided a cultural camp for survivors of residential schools on ancestral land for bonding, sharing stories, cultural and traditional activities ending with the drum and Gitksan song rafting down the Kispiox River to home.

The **Walpole Island First Nation Anishnaabe Language Advisory Group** created a calendar that promotes a learn-a-word-a-day strategy. On one date in September, the teaching is “Bizindow getzijig—listen to Elders.” Other projects include opportunities for Elders to gather for meals and conversation, healing circles, quilting, and intergenerational gatherings where language can be shared with the younger generations.

(no picture available)



**Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle, Orillia, ON**

Let's Be Strong Together project to assist the Aboriginal women to become liberated through building relationships and connections while actively participating in a series of culture based workshops such as the Drum Making and Drum Awakening Ceremony.



**Mi'kmaq Elders Language & Recovery, Truro, NS**

Mi'kmaq Language Recovery project utilizing modern technology the "Phraselator" to help preserve the language by interviewing and recording the fluent speaking Elders.



**Mohawk Bible Translation, Kahnstake and Kahnawake, QU:**

A project translating the Bible into the Mohawk Language and to create an audio CD for those who speak the language but do not read it.



**Women of the Dawn, Regina Sask:**

Healing our Daughters project to provide healing workshops and activities for young women who have had mothers in residential schools.