



NATIONAL HEALING FORESTS

Nature Works
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Patricia & Peter

Our Motivation (What's Yours?)



Early Canada

- [The child] is simply a savage who can read and write.” (Sir John A.1883)
- *...[G]et rid of the Indian problem...Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic (Duncan Campbell Scott, 1920)*



Marieval Cowessess Indian Residential School in Elcapo Creek Valley, Saskatchewan, n.d./ St. Boniface Historical Society Archives, 0001/SHSB 1461



Indigenous boys of the Indian School of Marieval identified without any order:
 Louis Agecontay, Frank Lerat, Isidore Smoker, Fred Acoose, Marvin Rainville, W.
 John Delorme, Solomon Still, Louis Swarvier, Willie Adams, Clifford Lerat, Vincent
 Delorme, George Red, George Delorme, Laurence Sparvier, Ernest Lavallée,
 Alexandre Tanner, Francis Kay, Louis Lavallée, Ernest Still, Edward Pelletier, Larnard
 Tanner, Robert Redwood, Noel Acoose et Pierre Lavallée, ca 1934, St. Boniface
 Historical Society, Oblats de Marie-Immaculée Province oblate du Manitoba/
 SHSB-28847



**Photograph of an
 unidentified Oblate and
 a nun with her class
 of Aboriginal students
 in Marieval, ca. 194-,
 St. Boniface Historical
 Society, Oblats de
 Marie-Immaculee du
 Manitoba/ SHSB 24652**

500+ years of loss:

- Land, language, culture, children, hope, sacred knowledge
- Each day in Canada:
 - ❖ 25 drop out of high school
 - ❖ 12 commit suicide
 - ❖ 1 murdered/missing

The National Healing Forests Project



Reconciliation Walk
May 31, 2015
Prior to release of
TRC Report





An
emotional
day

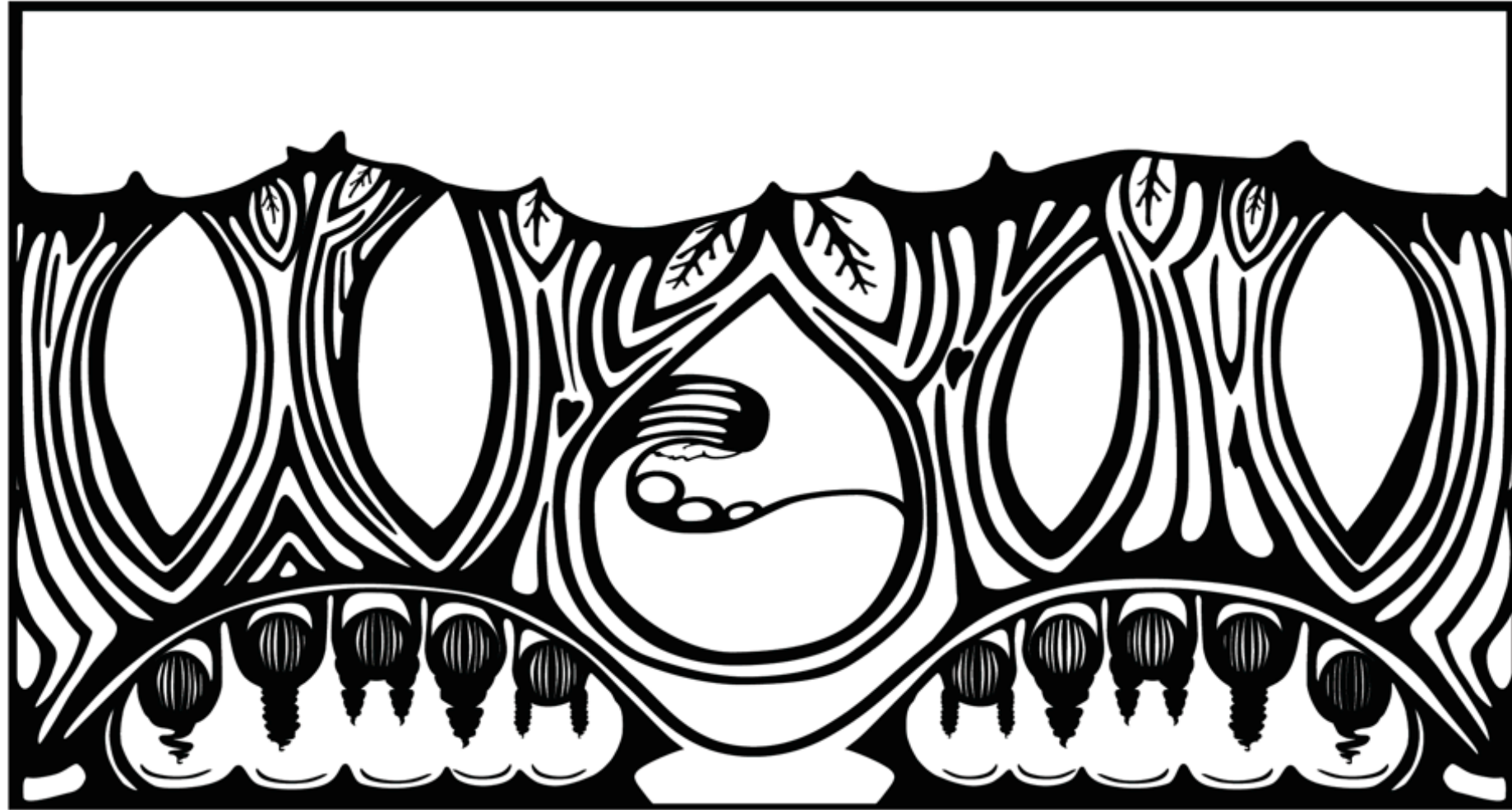


The Logo

(Diana Coote, [Marcoon Design marcoon.ca](http://marcoon.ca))



NATIONAL HEALING FOREST



REMEMBERING AND HONOURING RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

BEGINNING IN THE 1870s, 150,000 INDIGENOUS CHILDREN WERE PLACED IN GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS, MANY SUFFERING PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE. MORE THAN SIX THOUSAND CHILDREN DIED.

THE LAST RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CLOSED IN 1996. THIS FOREST IS DEDICATED TO RECONCILIATION AND HEALING.

WWW.NATIONALHEALINGFORESTS.COM

Healing Forest Possibilities

- Tree planting
- Outdoor gathering place
- Walking trails
- Garden memorials with names
- Areas set aside for the growing of medicinal or sacred plants

More Ideas...

- ▶ A children's honouring park
- ▶ A place where visiting Elders present talks, teachings and stories, or where a survivor could share and reflect on their experience
- ▶ Ideas are unlimited

Multiple Objectives

- ▶ Reconciliation and remembrance of Residential School legacy
- ▶ Building Community
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Connecting people to nature
- ▶ Two Ways Of Knowing (aka Two Ways of Seeing)
- ▶ Strengthening propagation of native species

Who Develops the Healing Forest idea to reality?

- ▶ Communities
 - ▶ People
 - ▶ Grassroots
 - ▶ You
- ▶ Patricia and Peter simply share an idea
- ▶ No approvals needed from us! 😊

All We Ask from Communities....

- Develop a Healing Forest in the spirit of Reconciliation and Respect
- Involve and partner with Indigenous communities
- Share News about the project on our website:
NationalHealingForests.com



What Could a
Healing Forest
Mean to You?

Edmonton, Alberta



Perth, Ontario



Winnipeg, Manitoba



Fitch Bay, Quebec



Abegweit First Nation (PEI)



All Saints Anglican/ First United Churches Ottawa, Ontario (Westboro)



Senator Murray Sinclair

- ▶ “*Reconciliation* is not an Indigenous problem: it is a *Canadian* one.”

The National Healing Forests initiative is our contribution to Reconciliation.

Our invitation to you is to build on the Healing Forest idea to aid in Reconciliation and Healing across Canada.



National Healing Forests

NationalHealingForests.com

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