



Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada

# TRC REGIONAL EVENT **VICTORIA, BC** APRIL 13-14, 2012

VICTORIA CONVENTION CENTRE & FAIRMONT EMPRESS



**The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** is hosting a Regional Event in Victoria BC, for the Vancouver Island Region. This is an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system.

**Join the TRC for the Vancouver Island Regional Event April 13-14 for:**

- Statement Gathering
- Traditional Ceremonies
- Survivor Gatherings
- Witnessing Survivor Statements
- Education Day
- Cultural Performances
- Films, and more

## **VANCOUVER ISLAND HEARINGS**

In addition to the TRC Regional Event in Victoria, the TRC will hold 4 Community Hearings throughout Vancouver Island (see map above for locations) – a schedule is provided at the end of this booklet. Visit **trc.ca** to register to give a statement at an upcoming TRC Community Hearing.

## TRC Community Hearings on Vancouver Island

In preparation for the TRC Regional Event to be held in Victoria on April 13-14, 2012, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) will hold 4 Community Hearings on Vancouver Island.

TRC Hearings provide an opportunity for Residential School Survivors and anyone impacted to share with the Commission and Canada the unique experiences of children who attended Residential School.

This is also an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system.



*Commissioners listen to the experiences described by survivors before a public sharing panel during a TRC Hearing.*

*See a schedule of TRC Hearings on Vancouver Island listed at the end of this booklet.*

## What is a Community Hearing?

The purpose of TRC Community Hearings are to inform the public about the Commission's work and statement gathering process, and provide survivors with time to reflect and share their experiences in lead up to the TRC Regional Event in Victoria, BC.

### A Community Hearing is:

- An opportunity to share your experiences publicly with the TRC Commissioners or via private statement gathering.
- A Forum for community leaders to present on behalf of their communities.
- A safe place to hear and share in other's experiences.
- A safe place to learn about the legacy and impacts of residential school.
- An opportunity to bear witness to this important event.



*A Health Support worker wearing a vest is easily identified and lends support during a public hearing. TRC Community Hearings are not part of an IAP claims process.*

## Registering and Providing your Statement Public Statements

This is an opportunity to share your experiences with the TRC Commissioners in the main forum of the event.

Survivors, intergenerational survivors, their families, residential school staff and others are welcomed to make presentations at these hearings.

Your time to make your presentation will be limited depending on the number of people wishing to give statements. The typical length of allocated time is less than 15 minutes. Your statement will be audio and video recorded. Health supports will be present.

Those wishing to make a public statement are encouraged to register in advance of the hearings. To pre-register, visit [trc.ca](http://trc.ca) or contact Stephanie Scott, toll free at 1-888-872-5554 or email [stephanie.scott@trc.ca](mailto:stephanie.scott@trc.ca).



*Those interested in sharing their experiences can select to make a private statement or a public statement.*

## Private statements

This is an opportunity to share your experiences in complete confidence with just a health support and statement gatherer in the room.

Your statement will be audio or video recorded depending on your preference. There is no fixed time limit on these sessions however there is a recommended 1.5 hour maximum.



*A Residential School Survivor sits with a Statement Gatherer and a Health Support worker in a private session where the hearing is video recorded. Those sharing can bring photos, documents or other items with them.*



Private Statement Gathering will be available during all Hearings and at the Regional Event. Visit [trc.ca](http://trc.ca) for times and locations.

## General Public Welcome

The general public is invited to observe the proceedings as witnesses. The role of the Witness is to observe or account for the significance of the event. Bearing witness to the thought provoking stories of residential school survivors helps to validate the survivor experience.



*Witnesses are asked to store and care for the history they have witnessed and most importantly, to share it with their own communities when they return home.*



## Health Supports

Health supports play an important role in the hearings process and are part of all TRC events. Health supports provide emotional support and care to those in the audience and those sharing their experiences. Support is available before, during and after the Hearings.

Three kinds of support workers are available:

- Professional Therapists
- Resolution Health Support workers (RHSW's)
- Cultural Supports

## Media

Media are welcome to attend Public Hearings and Commissioner Sharing Panels. Journalists are permitted to audio record, photograph (non-flash) or film the proceedings, unless otherwise directed by the facilitator of the Sharing Panel. Media are required to identify themselves to organizers upon arrival and a protocol document will be provided.

## TRC Vancouver Island Regional Event and Hearings Schedule

### Port Hardy

The Big House -  
U'Gwamalis Hall  
99 Tsakis Way  
February 27-28, 2012

### Port Alberni

Maht Mahs Gym  
5000 Mission Road  
March 12-13 2012

### TRC Regional Event in Victoria, BC

Victoria Convention Centre & Fairmont Empress  
April 13-14, 2012

The TRC British Columbia National Event will take place in Vancouver, September 18-21, 2013.

TRC Events are free and open to everyone.

For more information visit [trc.ca](http://trc.ca) or call 1-888-872-5554 (1-888-TRC-5554)



*Health Supports are there to ensure you have the support you need as you share your experiences.*



*Saskatchewan Survivor Gary Joseph with his daughter at the Atlantic National Event in Halifax.*