



News Release

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LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR TO HOST TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION EVENT AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Lt.-Gov. Philip S. Lee, in partnership with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and the University of Manitoba, will host the “Revitalizing Reconciliation Event in Manitoba – A Cross Cultural Dialogue” at Government House, 10 Kennedy St. on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 10 a.m.

The event will feature remarks by TRC commissioners Justice Murray Sinclair and Dr. Marie Wilson, a panel discussion moderated by Terry MacLeod, co-host of CBC’s Information Radio (see list of panellists below), and the induction of the lieutenant-governor as an honorary witness to the work of the TRC.

Panel participants include:

- Dr. David Barnard; president and vice-chancellor, University of Manitoba;
- Mary Courchene, residential school survivor/educator/elder;
- Michael Redhead Champagne, youth leader;
- Jon Lovlin, managing director, Global Winnipeg;
- Janelle de Rocquigny, instructor and research co-ordinator at the Université de Saint-Boniface; and
- Jan Sanderson, deputy minister, Children and Youth Opportunities.

Representatives of the media are welcome. Members of the public are invited to view the event online at www.manitobalg.ca or www.trc.ca or www.umanitoba.ca where it will be live-streamed from 10 a.m. to noon.

“The commission gratefully acknowledges both His Honour and the university for their commitment to reconciliation in the wake of the damage done by the residential schools,” said Sinclair.

Lee will join more than 20 prominent Canadians who have been TRC honorary witnesses – including David Onley, lieutenant-governor of Ontario, and former governor general Michaëlle Jean. Over the past two years, the commission has partnered with lieutenant-governors across

the country to engage Canadians in the work of the TRC and to promote reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

Sinclair explained that the act of witnessing is fundamental to Aboriginal cultures and to the TRC. “One of the objectives of the commission is to witness, support, promote and facilitate truth and reconciliation events at both the national and community levels,” he said. “Witnesses are called to be keepers of history and to share with others what they have witnessed and learned.”

The lieutenant-governor stated that he will view his role as an honorary witness in his belief that “only a thorough and honest understanding of our past, of wrongs committed and of the effect of those wrongs will allow us to move forward into a future in which the rights and dignity of all Canadians are defended.”

Revitalizing Reconciliation marks the first anniversary of the apology by the University of Manitoba to former students of Indian Residential Schools.

<http://umanitoba.ca/about/media/StatementOfApology.pdf>

“The intent of the Statement of Apology and Reconciliation to residential school survivors was to publicly acknowledge the harms of the past and apologize for failing to recognize or challenge the forced assimilation of First Nations, Metis and Inuit children, while expressing our commitment to advancing Indigenous scholarship,” said Dr. Barnard. “We are now moving forward in our goal of making Manitoba the Centre of Excellence for Indigenous education.”

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 150-year history of the residential schools, and to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

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