

BECOMING TREATY PARTNERS

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIONS INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE

First Steps:

1. Finding out about First Nation history, geography, and culture in your own area. In New Brunswick, these nations include members of the Wabanaki Nation, and specifically in the Saint John Diocese: Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey and Passamaquoddy communities.

Resources:

[Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick](#)

[Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre at UNB](#)

[Wabanaki Alliance in Maine](#)

2. Don't let fear of being inappropriate hold you back from engaging. An excellent resource for individuals wondering how to respectfully engage in the Calls to Action can be found in the "Indigenous Toolkit" accessible online at <https://reseaumtlnetwork.com>

3. Learn about the Calls to Action, specifically those that relate to churches (# 48, 49, 58 to 61, 73 and 76. These are attached in Appendix.

[Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)

Important Texts:

1. [We Were Not the Savages](#) _____ **History**

Daniel Paul, CM and ONS, a Mi'kmaq elder, author, columnist and human rights activist wrote the history of Indigenous people of Atlantic Canada from a factual, historical, Indigenous perspective.

2. [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) _____ **Science, Worldview**

Robin Wall Kimmerer writes about indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teaching of plants. The book explores the role of indigenous knowledge as both an alternative and a complement to Western mainstream scientific methodologies.

3. [Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations](#) _____ **Spirituality, Worldview**

Richard Wagamese was a beloved novelist and journalist from Wabaseemoong Independent Nation in North West Ontario who had won many awards for his work.

4. [Five Little Indians](#) **Fiction**

Michelle Good is a Cree writer, poet, and lawyer. With compassion and insight, she chronicles the desperate quest of five residential school survivors to come to terms with their past and ultimately find a way forward.

5. [Walking In Two Worlds](#) **Youth Literature**

The author, Wabanakwut “Wab” Kinew, is the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, a musician, broadcaster, and university administrator. He chronicles the story of an Indigenous teen girl caught between two worlds, both real and virtual.

More resources:

[25 books by indigenous authors you should be reading](#) (right click to open link)

Television:

1. **APTN** channel (Aboriginal Peoples Television Network) offers programming from a First Nation, Metis and Inuit perspective. Commit to watching a show each week. Some suggestions include:

APTN National News

APTN Investigates

Coyote’s Crazy Smart Science Show Youth

Teepee Time Under 6

2. **GEM CBC** is a free downloadable app for computers, tablets and smart TV. It has a variety of movies and shows on Indigenous Peoples, under the categories Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Stories. A few local offerings include:

My Wolastotoq

The Spirit Remains

Indigenous Land Acknowledgements KN Explains

Gespe’Gewa’Gi

We Were Children

Engaging in Parish activities:

1. Start or join a parish learning circle using the text “[Listening to Indigenous Voices.](#)”
2. Start or join a book club, using one of the reading resources.
3. Organize or participate in a “[Blanket Ceremony](#)”. Contact office: Fr Bill Brennan.
4. Participate in a prayer vigil, an online activity or a walk on Sept 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

What might I do to become a more informed Ally and Treaty Partner with the Indigenous Community as we strive to live more deeply our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation?

*There are copies of a handout titled, **Becoming Treaty Partners**, available for you to pick up at the Entrance(s) of each Church Site in the Parish. It offers suggested books, links, television (APTN and Gem CBC) and other means that you can assist your learning and deepening awareness as an individual as well as suggestions for initiating and engaging in activities in the Parish. Woliwon - Thank you.*