



# Reconciliation Queries for Friends

As Friends engage in the work of upholding Indigenous rights; actively pursuing the decolonization of Canadian society; and building practices of reconciliation, we are committed to grounding our actions in our spiritual practices, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* and *Principles of Reconciliation*, and Quaker testimonies.

We honour the good work that Canadian Yearly Meeting<sup>1</sup> and Canadian Friends Service Committee<sup>2</sup> are undertaking on the path of Indigenous rights, decolonization, and reconciliation. In light of the legacies and continuity of colonization, this journey of listening, relationship-building, learning, and healing will continue for generations to come.

We offer a few queries for Friends.  
Overall, they ask:

**How can we follow leadings of the Spirit, both individually and in our Meetings, to actively work towards the decolonization of Canada, recognition, promotion, and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?**

These queries are an invitation to challenge and inspire Friends individually and corporately as a faith body.

## Queries

1. How am I learning about and building respectful relationships with Indigenous people in the communities in which I live, work, and/or worship? How am I building relationships of truth and understanding with non-Indigenous people in the communities in which I live, work, and/or worship?

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2. What protocols or practices do we honour in our Monthly Meeting and collective gatherings to recognize Indigenous lands, waters, lifeways, and rights? How do we ensure these do not become tokenistic or rote over time?

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3. How can we increase our awareness of the local history of colonization and reconciliation efforts in our faith community?

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4. In what ways can I stand in solidarity with the current concerns and rights of Indigenous Peoples? What protocols and/or permissions may I need to seek in this process?

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5. How do I relate to concepts of 'home' and 'belonging' in the context of settler colonialism?

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6. Do my actions support Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty?

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7. Am I doing my own work in educating myself about reconciliation and decolonization? Am I aware of my own areas of ignorance, bias, and discomfort? Reconciliation is work that settlers must do, being careful not to put the burden of this work onto Indigenous Peoples.

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8. How are we doing our own work to decolonize and honour the rights of Indigenous Peoples as a faith community? How are we actively challenging the direct personal, structural, and cultural violence of settler colonialism where we encounter it? What does reconciliation require of us as Friends?

Have questions? Contact us at [info@quakerservice.ca](mailto:info@quakerservice.ca)

To learn more about our peace and justice, click the link below.

[QuakerService.ca/Reconciliation](https://www.quakerservice.ca/Reconciliation)

<sup>1</sup> See CYM Minutes on Truth and Reconciliation from 2015-08-03, 2016-08-30, and 2021-09-03.

<sup>2</sup> See [QuakerService.ca/Resources](https://www.quakerservice.ca/Resources) for related CFSC resources.

