

For national day for truth and reconciliation, what are seen as priorities when it comes to reconciliation with indigenous peoples?

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The Federal Government has declared September 30 a statutory holiday-The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- that aims to provide an **opportunity to 'recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools.'** The date was chosen because it was the time of year when Indigenous children were removed from their families and forced to attend residential schools (<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2021/07/federal-statutory-holiday-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation.html>). In its commitment to reconciliation, the Government of Canada seeks to ensure that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten. As such the day will provide an opportunity for each public servant to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

What are seen as priorities when it comes to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples? To better understand this the Association for Canadian Studies asked Leger Marketing to put an open question to Canadians around reconciliation with a view to determining what they see as priorities. While one in five Canadians say that they don't know what the priority should be, the two responses that came up most frequently, when asked, were acknowledging past errors, providing clean water and fighting discrimination. Some 1515 Canadians were surveyed between August 13 and 15th, 2021. The survey has a probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20.

INTRODUCTION

WHAT DO CANADIANS VIEW AS PRIORITIES WHEN IT COMES TO RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

At least One in five Canadians don't know what actions need to be taken to improve relations with indigenous peoples but acknowledging past errors, providing clean water and fighting discrimination top the list of priorities

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada is regarded as a key priority for the country. In one sentence, please tell us what actions you think need to be prioritized in order to improve relations with Indigenous peoples?	
Don't know	20%
Acknowledging past errors/crimes / asking for forgiveness	11%
Providing clean drinking water / better water infrastructure	10%
Insuring equal rights for all / stop discrimination/racism	9%
Getting them involved in the resolution of the problems / listening to them	8%

Quality of life and supporting cultural heritage represent a second tier of priorities around reconciliation

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada is regarded as a key priority for the country. In one sentence, please tell us what actions you think need to be prioritized in order to improve relations with Indigenous peoples?	
Providing them basic needs/living standards / improving their quality of living	6%
Respecting them / accepting their heritage	6%
Nothing / none	6%
Including Indigenous studies in schools / more public awareness about First Nations	5%
Getting things done / resolving the issues / following the commission recommendations	5%
Other	5%

Next tier of priorities focus on economic issues

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada is regarded as a key priority for the country. In one sentence, please tell us what actions you think need to be prioritized in order to improve relations with Indigenous peoples?	
Providing them proper education	4%
Giving them compensation/financial support/fiscal advantage	4%
Integrating them to the society / making them pay taxes / abolishing the reserves	4%
Improving the communication / efficient dialogue	4%
Providing them job opportunities / improving their economy	3%
Allowing them to practice their own forms of government/self-determination	3%
Giving them more land/the land back / respecting their territories	3%
Forget the past and start over / booth side should take responsibility	3%
Better control of money being given to Indigenous / stop giving them money constantly	3%

METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From August 13 to August 15, 2021 some 1515 Canadians were surveyed via web panel

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1515 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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