



Message from the Mayor

I am so admiring of the fact that Crestwood continues to show leadership by holding its third symposium on Human Rights and Tolerance.

And just as important in this year 2016 you have chosen as your theme Toward Reconciliation in recognition of the important work we as Canadians are pledged to do to address some of the many issues outstanding with our Indigenous people.

I decided 2016 should be the year in which I, as a private citizen and as Mayor of Canada's largest city would do something to acknowledge the injustices we have allowed to take place with the First Canadians.

And so, this summer I went and spent four days with a First Nations family in a remote community only reachable by air, some 1800 km northwest of Toronto, further away than is Florida.

While there, I saw the deplorable housing conditions which exist today, I visited the school which only goes to Grade 10, I spent some time with a family whose teenaged daughter had recently committed suicide and I visited the local grocery store where if residents wanted to eat healthy broccoli, it would cost \$15 for a bunch no one would buy in Toronto.

That was in the summer of 2016. But even more moving were the accounts of residential school survivors who told the tragic story of being taken from their family homes at age 4, and sent away to a school where they were forbidden to speak their native language, stripped of indigenous customs and in many cases abused through forced child labour and worse.

This was a very sorry and shameful chapter in Canadian history and has left scars we are only just now beginning to understand.



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I was a student of Canadian history in university. Not much time was spent on this part of our history and now we are all trying to make up for that, by learning, by understanding the deep hurt, by trying to reconcile. Your symposium will be one more contribution to that healing and I thank you most sincerely for holding it.

Canada is a model to the world. We are admired across the globe for the way we live together, respectfully and inclusively. Reconciling with our Indigenous people will allow for healing to truly begin and it will allow us to be true to the values we are so proud of.

Congratulations on one of the most important events you will be part of during your time at Crestwood. Another reason it is one of Canada's finest independent schools.

Yours truly,



Mayor John Tory
City of Toronto