



“First Contact”

Workbook



The first stage of the journey towards healing of Canada occurred when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada published their finding, as of December 18 2015. The commission verified that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada believes that in order for Canada to flourish in the twenty-first century, reconciliation must be based on the following principles: It is important to recognize, reconciliation is a process of healing of relationships that requires truth, sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms. Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Indigenous peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, the administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples. All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships. (*"What we have learned,"* http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final%20Reports/Principles_English_Web.pdf)

The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), the producers of "First Contact," HIP & World Peace Partners believe reconciliation requires sustained public education and dialogue, including youth engagement, about the history and legacy of residential schools, Treaties, and Indigenous rights, as well as the historical and contemporary contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canadian society.

APTN, in association with Animiki See Digital Productions, Nüman Films, and Indios Productions will premiere the documentary-series, "FIRST CONTACT" on September 11th at 7 pm local time. This is a compelling exploration into indigenous culture in Canada that will air as a three-part series narrated by host and social justice activist George Stroumboulopoulos. The producers take six Canadians, all with strong opinions about Indigenous people, on a unique 28-day exploration of Indigenous Canada. It is a journey that will turn their lives upside down, challenging their perceptions and confronting their prejudices about a world they never imagined they would see. This exploration will change the participants' lives forever.

"We are incredibly proud of all of the people who participated in this journey with us," says Executive Producer Vanessa Loewen, Animiki See Digital Productions Inc. "It takes a lot of courage to immerse and expose oneself to an experience like this and we are blessed that the communities across Canada opened their doors to us. This raw and honest account will undoubtedly inspire empathy and awareness of Indigenous culture by Canadians coast-to-coast."

September 11, also marks the first day of Rotary's 9th annual Peace Days Festival and immediately following the premiere of "FIRST CONTACT," HIP will be hosting a special screening panel discussion event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. Immediately following the screening, Ry Moran will moderate a discussion including panelists Kevin Lamoureux, Crystal Leach, Michael Champagne, Bernadette Smith and the series producers Vanessa Loewen, Jeff Newman, and Stephanie Scott. This session will be streamed via FaceBook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/firstcontactseries>.

For those who are unable to join us in Winnipeg for this special evening, we encourage you to consider hosting a screening and discussion with your Rotary Clubs, organization, faith groups and friends. For larger groups, a link to the first episode can be provided to you. The following workbook is designed to help prepare and guide you.

STEP 1: HOST THE PREMIERE OF “FIRST CONTACT”

This is a great opportunity for you to take action towards Truth & Reconciliation by organizing a group viewing of the first episode of “FIRST CONTACT,” airing on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 pm local time. Where possible, invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to participate. Viewing can be as small or large as you feel comfortable organizing.

The series, produced by Winnipeg-based Animiki See Digital Productions, Numan Films, and Indios Productions, takes six Canadians, all with strong opinions about Indigenous people, on a unique and compelling 28-day exploration of Indigenous Canada. It is a journey that will turn their lives upside down, challenge their perceptions, and confront their prejudices about a world they never imagined they would see. This exploration will change the participants’ lives forever, and will undoubtedly add to the national conversation on Indigenous issues and reconciliation.

Take a trip
outside of your
comfort zone
and come
back with a
broader
perspective.

The following six participants will leave their everyday lives behind to travel deep into Winnipeg, Nunavut, Alberta, Northern Ontario, and the coast of BC to visit Indigenous communities:

[Ashley Mathieu](#)

Age: 32

Hometown: Ottawa, ON

Occupation: Personal trainer

About: Ashley’s life has been a truly transformative journey. The daughter of a Canadian Royal Mounted Police Officer and a Portuguese immigrant mother, she was a shy little girl who got bullied throughout most of her childhood. Having been through many challenges and hard times, Ashley is an empathetic person who is interested in learning about other people before passing judgment. She is also a direct and outspoken person and believes every Canadian has a right to their own opinion and the right to express it.

[Avonlea Collins](#)

Age: 28

Hometown: Chilliwack, BC

Occupation: Stay-at-home mom

About: Avonlea has spent her life caring for others, from her brother to her young sons. Her big-heart and compassion are her defining qualities. Open to learning and changing, Avonlea dreams of living overseas one day and hopes her children get a chance to learn about other cultures in the world; something she never got to do. Avonlea considers herself open to new cultures, people and environments.

[Dallas Cormier](#)

Age: 26

Hometown: Saint John, NB

Occupation: Lobster fisherman/welder

About: Outgoing and athletic from childhood, Dallas spent his adolescence playing sports and hanging out at the community centre with the same group of kids he is still friends with to this day. Dallas’ parents pushed him to be someone who cared about others and he does his best to help others however he can. His mom is his role model, as she always made sure he was able to participate in activities with friends, despite a limited household income.

Donald Wright

Age: 65

Hometown: Ardrossan, AB

Occupation: Retired truck driver

About: Donald is proud to consider himself honest, with a strong work ethic and integrity. A self-proclaimed opinionated conservative, he considers that the freedom to live in a safe, clean place without war and suffering is the best thing about Canada. He's not a fan of the current government's focus on diversity, though he enjoys exploring the world with his wife of 18 years.

Jamie-Sue Sykes

Age: 36

Hometown: Ingersoll, ON

Occupation: Team leader, auto manufacturing

About: Country-born and bred, Jamie-Sue loves big trucks and small-town Canada. She defies any stereotypes that go along with country life with her open-mindedness and compassionate nature. She wants to see the country do much more to help its most marginalized communities, like those suffering from addiction or mental health issues. She believes we are only as good as the way we treat those most in need.

Ross Jackson

Age: 50

Hometown: Edmonton, AB

Occupation: Accountant

About: Family man Ross has his roots firmly planted in Alberta, but has explored the world as well, first as a young child living in New Zealand with his family, and later as an officer in the Navy. A father of three, Ross has strong opinions and believes that hard work and traditional Canadian values are the key to success. He expects anyone who has the opportunity to live in Canada to feel the same.

"FIRST CONTACT" is produced by Animiki See Digital Productions, Nüman Films, and Indios Productions, with the financial participation of the Canada Media Fund. Producers are Vanessa Loewen and Desiree Single for Animiki, Jeff Newman and Jocelyn Mitchell for Nüman Films, and Stephanie Scott for Indios Productions. Written and Directed by Jeff Newman.

The series will continue with episode two on Wednesday, September 12 and episode three on Thursday, September 13. The second and third episodes will be followed by a two-part reunion special airing September 12 and 13 at 8:00 p.m. ET. Following the second episode on Wednesday, APTN will air the first of a two-part reunion special featuring three Indigenous hosts that appear in the series. James Favel (co-founder of the Bear Clan Patrol), Michael Redhead Champagne (award-winning community organizer, public speaker and Shamattawa Cree Nation member) and Bernadette Smith (MLA, Assistant Director of Wayfinders Program in the Seven Oaks School Division) will come together in front of a live Winnipeg audience to reflect on the journey of the six participants and share their goals on how all Canadians can help strengthen relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Part two of the dramatic reunion special airs after the finale on Thursday evening, and will see the six participants come together before a live studio audience, to reflect on their experience during and since their journey together.

STEP 2: FACILITATE A DISCUSSION

At 8:00 PM CST/9:00 PM EST, HIP will be hosting a special screening panel discussion event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. Immediately following the screening, Ry Moran will moderate a discussion including panelists Kevin Lamoureux, Crystal Leach, Michael Champagne, Bernadette Smith and the series producers Vanessa Loewen, Jeff Newman, and Stephanie Scott. This session will be streamed via FaceBook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/firstcontactseries>

For those who are outside of the CST team zone, there may be a gap between the airing of the show and the live Facebook stream. We encourage you to host your own discussion immediately following the show.

It is critical that you create a safe zone for discussions, where everyone can speak freely without fear of it being held against them or broadcasted beyond the group. It is important conversations are held in a manner that doesn't make people feel condemned.

HIP recommends facilitating the conversation with everyone sitting in circle set up. Utilize an instrument, such as a stone, feather or talking stick to identify who in the group is speaking. This can easily be passed around the circle to ensure everyone has the opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions. If a person does not want to speak, they can simply say "pass". Respectfully, as a facilitator, ensure there are no interruptions while the person identified with the speaking instrument is speaking. Feelings may be expressed with tears or anger. Respect the emotion.

Ask the group the following questions:

1. What surprised you the most after watching this film?
2. Has this film changed your perspective about Indigenous/non-Indigenous peoples?
3. If you are non-Indigenous, what would you like to tell Indigenous peoples? If Indigenous, what do you want to say to non-Indigenous people?
4. What do you believe needs to be done to reconcile the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?

“People change what they do less because they are given analysis that shifts their thinking than because they are shown a truth that influences their feelings” ~ John P. Kotter, The Heart of Change.

5. What action are you willing to make to improve Indigenous/non-indigenous relationships?

6. How can you verify that your call-to-action is meaningful and will not cause more harm?

7. What do you need to support your action?

8. After watching episode #1, will you, or will you not, watch episode # 2 and # 3 (September 12th & 13th). Explain why?

Did you know every June 21st is National Indigenous Day, when hundreds of events are held across Canada?

STEP 3: HIP FEEDBACK

HIP seeks constant improvement. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and email to julie@eccgroup.ca.

- Is this an effective instructive learning tool you would use with your family, friends, neighbour's, Rotary Club, faith or humanitarian group, workplace or school? Explain why and why not.
- What can HIP do to help Districts and Clubs spread the message of this film across Canada
- If we host another circle tomorrow and next day to see all 3 episodes together would you attend?
- Will you watch the remaining 2 episodes at home? Who with?
- Are you or your Rotary Club, faith or humanitarian group, workplace or school involved with an indigenous community? If so, how? If not, do you think your club would be interested?
- Do you want Hip to follow up with you and stay connected through our newsletter (If so please provide your email addresses)?
- Would you be interested in attending a larger event (potentially October and November) hosted in an Indigenous facility and location, with introductory Indigenous ceremony?

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has developed 94 calls to action which can be found at <http://www.trc.ca/websites>.

Additional Information

About HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples)

HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) is a Canada wide partnership between Indigenous Peoples and Rotarians. HIP envisions a Canada where every Indigenous person has equitable educational opportunities as other Canadians and where Rotarians work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to address challenges and enable sustainable solutions thereby building strong nations where all peoples prosper.

About APTN

APTN launched in 1999 as the first national Aboriginal broadcaster in the world, creating a window into the remarkably diverse mosaic of Aboriginal Peoples. A respected non-profit, charitable broadcaster and the only one of its kind in North America. *Sharing our stories* of authenticity in English, French and a variety of Aboriginal languages, to approximately 11 million Canadian TV subscribers. With over 80% Canadian content, APTN connects with its audience through genuine, inspiring, and engaging entertainment through multiple platforms.

About Animiki See Digital Production

One of Canada's leading producers of Indigenous content, Animiki See Digital Production has been creating original and captivating programs that reflect Indigenous People for over 10 years. Recent projects include the annual broadcast concert and celebration of Indigenous Day Live, one-hour dramatic pilot *Wynter*, and the documentary series "First Contact" based on the Australian series format.

About Nüman Films

Nüman Films is a Gemini Award winning Production Company that produces compelling, original, and entertaining documentary and lifestyle programming for the international and national marketplace. From the rock'em sock'em rinks in *Hockey Brawl* (CTV) to the flooded plains of Manitoba in *Treading Water* (CBC/APTN), and the inner workings of a family in crisis in *Being Greene* (CBC), Nüman Films has built a reputation for delivering exceptional programming with engaging stories, captivating characters, and a unique perspective. Nüman Films is a full-service production company located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. We have worked with a variety of partners and broadcasters including CTV, CBC, Discovery, National Geographic, Bravo!, CityTV, History, MTS, Slice, APTN and OLN.

About Indios Productions

Indios Productions Inc. is a 100% Indigenous owned production company. Stephanie Scott is Anishinabe who has over 15 years of experience working for the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, National Film Board and W. She has produced over 100 hours of television including documentary series, a live talk show, national events and short films. Stephanie also worked with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) where she helped manage the gathering of almost 7,000 digital audio and video recorded statements by former residential school survivors and others impacted by the schools. Stephanie is a proud grandmother, and mother.