

**SEPTEMBER**  
**21 TO 23**

2021 NATIONAL  
**BUILDING  
RECONCILIATION**  
FORUM

*Falling into*  
step with First  
Peoples students



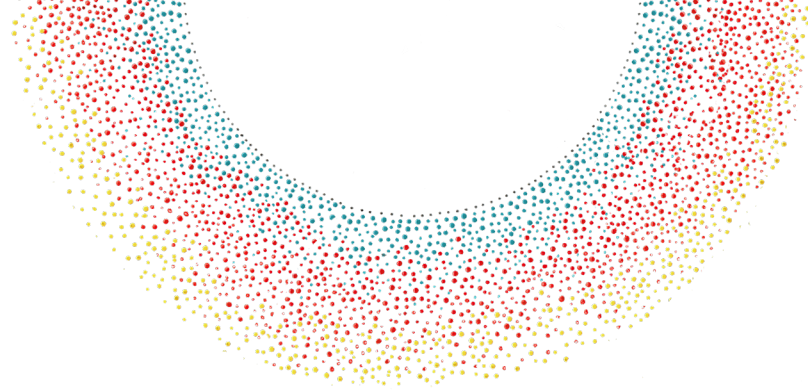
**PRE-FORUM**  
SEPT. **21**

Cégep de Kiuna  
**ODANAK**

**FORUM**

SEPT. **22 and 23**

Hôtel Le Concorde  
**QUÉBEC CITY**



CO-ORGANIZED BY



UNIVERSITÉ  
**LAVAL**

AND



UQAM UQTR UQAC UQAR UQO  
UQAT INRS ENAP ÉTS TÉLUQ

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Conseil en Éducation  
des Premières Nations



INSTITUT  
Tshakapesh



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Cree School Board  
Commission scolaire crie



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Kativik Ilisarniliriniq

NASKAPI  
EDUCATION-COMMITTEE



Institut nordique  
du Québec  
Ensemble pour le Nord

CIÉRA  
Centre interuniversitaire d'études  
et de recherches autochtones



Universities  
Canada.



Fédération  
des cégeps

IN COLLABORATION WITH

*Association des étudiants autochtones de l'Université Laval • Université de Montréal • Concordia University • Cégep de Saint-Félicien*



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## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL BUILDING RECONCILIATION FORUM?

Since 2015, Canadian universities, supported by Universities Canada, have organized an annual forum bringing together “leaders from universities, colleges, and Indigenous communities to create **meaningful and lasting institutional change in the higher education sector to advance reconciliation**” (Universities Canada, 2017).



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## WHY IS THIS EVENT IMPORTANT?

In 2015, the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** submitted its inquiry report highlighting the violence and trauma experienced by Canadian Indigenous children forcibly placed in residential schools.

The disastrous consequences of that assimilation process orchestrated by the Canadian government are still being felt many years after the institutions closed.

The **TRC**'s report includes a call to *"transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share."*

The commissioners further assert their belief that **education** is also *"the key to reconciliation."*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> TRC, 2015. Summary of the Final Report, p. 234





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## WHY IS THIS EVENT IMPORTANT? (CONT.)

In a call for reconciliation and the establishment of a new balance of power, the **Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples** (Viens) and certain government services in Quebec proposes cross-cutting measures like *“improving living conditions, breaking down language barriers to access services, providing support and guidance to First Nations and Inuit in their relations with government services, and providing training and information for both citizens and professionals.”*<sup>2</sup>

The final report of the **National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** presents a series of calls for justice. Many of these relate to education, including call 11.1:

*“We call upon all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions and education authorities to educate and provide awareness to the public about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and about the issues and root causes of violence they experience.”*<sup>3</sup>

2 [Press release] La Commission d'enquête sur les relations entre les Autochtones et certains services publics rend son rapport public (Val-d'Or, September 30, 2019)

3 NIMMIWG, 2019. Executive Summary of the Final Report, p. 79



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## WHAT WILL BE THE THEME OF THE FORUM?

*Falling into*  
step with First Peoples students *to...*

- ✓ Show respect for the realities of First Nations and Inuit people regarding education in Québec (e.g., language, culture, history, pride in their identity, etc.).
- ✓ Support the multiple paths and trajectories of First Peoples students.
- ✓ Recognize the systemic barriers and challenges associated with each of the different levels of education.
- ✓ Identify potential mechanisms to overcome these barriers, determine the roles of different actors (governments, educational institutions, services, etc.), and obtain concrete commitments from these actors to support and guide First Peoples students throughout their education.



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## WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE FORUM?

- ✓ Developed in a collaborative process, the 2021 National Building Reconciliation Forum seeks to rally and bring together the main actors in the world of Indigenous education and all post-secondary institutions in Quebec and across Canada.
- ✓ It will serve as a springboard to ensure that the ideas discussed at the forum come to fruition, and that they help support Indigenous people in the process of taking charge of education by and for First Peoples, and transforming Québec and Canadian society.
- ✓ Our hope is that this event will mark a commitment by the actors involved to take concrete action aimed at overcoming systemic barriers to the success of First Peoples students.



## ACTIVITY PROGRAM

### RAISING AWARENESS AND ENGAGING UNIVERSITY AND GOVERNMENT ACTORS

**Five preparatory webinars** will be held over the course of the year with a view to fostering engagement among university and government actors at the Forum. Registration for these webinars is mandatory. Simultaneous interpretation (English/French) will be available.

**THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 3, 2020**  
1:30 p.m. (EST)

**Raising awareness among  
post-secondary institutions about  
the realities of First Peoples**

**THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 4, 2021**  
1:30 p.m. (EST)

**Access to higher education  
for First Peoples students**

**THURSDAY,  
APRIL 8, 2021**  
1:30 p.m. (EST)

**Support and services  
for First Peoples students**

**THURSDAY,  
MAY 13, 2021**  
1:30 p.m. (EST)

**Making space for First Peoples  
in teaching  
(pedagogy and course content)**

**THURSDAY,  
JUNE 3, 2021**  
1:30 p.m. (EST)

**Challenges and mechanisms  
surrounding the place of First  
Peoples in governance and  
administration**



## OUR AMBASSADORS



Emmanuelle  
O'Bomsawin  
**Abenaki**



Cyndy  
Wylde  
**Anicinape**



Gilbert  
Niquay  
**Atikamekw**



Jedidat  
Matoush  
**Cree**



Audrey-Lise  
Basile  
**Innu**



Andrea  
Brazeau  
**Inuk**



Watsenniiostha  
Shaelyn Nelson  
**Kanien'kéha:ka**



Vincent  
Jeannotte Medina  
**Mi'kmaq**



Glenda  
Sandy  
**Naskapi**



Benoit  
Gros-Louis  
**Wendat**



Édith  
Bélanger  
**Wolastoqey**