



ON CANADA PROJECT

Settlers Take Action: The On Canada Project Calls on Canadians to Do Their Part in Reconciliation

June 1, 2021

The remains of 215 Indigenous children killed in a Residential School in B.C. were found in May 2021, with thousands more still unaccounted for. Over **seven generations** of Indigenous people continue to feel indescribable effects of personal and intergenerational trauma to this day. **This is not just a historical issue; it is also a current issue.**

For all of us in Canada, this moment should be one of national grieving.

We as settlers need to own that; we need to sit with the discomfort of our country's actions. We have to accept that while we might not be directly responsible, we still greatly benefit from colonialism in Canada. We need to understand that we can love this country *and* know it needs to be better.

Our government has a responsibility to do better, **but so do we.** We can't just mourn; we need to do more, individually as settlers and collectively as a settler nation.

We all have a part to play in Truth & Reconciliation, and since our government isn't stepping up, **we, the people, must.**

The On Canada Project's [website](#) has a step by step guide on how settlers in Canada can **take action** as well as Indigenous informed resources to help Canadians know better and do better.

The project also wrote several posts to bring awareness to residential schools and the 215 children found. The posts went viral this weekend, getting shared and amplified by Canadian celebrities like Ryan Reynolds and Dan Levy in their Instagram grid and stories. The virality illustrates the gap Canadians are facing when it comes to Indigenous awareness; moreover, the emotion that many are experiencing in response to these news.

The On Canada Project encourages Canadians to fuel their emotion into action and to advocate for change. This means educating ourselves on the truth of our country's history, knowing and acknowledging who's land we currently live and work on, and reaching out to our elected officials to let them know these issues matter to us and holding them accountable for representing those interests.

The Original Posts:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CPecz7ANpTP/?utm_medium=copy_link

https://www.instagram.com/p/CPghglytbCL/?utm_medium=copy_link

https://www.instagram.com/p/CPg6v6CNWmi/?utm_medium=copy_link

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We welcome interviews by the media to speak on this issue as settlers who believe settlers should take action. We ask that when covering this, that the voices of Indigenous people be centered.

About The On Canada Project:

The On Canada Project launched on June 1, 2020, to address the gaping inequities in pandemic-related communications.

We've since grown to use our conversational, credible, compassionate and critical lens to talk about a variety of issues facing our country and the people who live in it.

Our goal is simple; we want to make it easy for Millennials and Gen Z in Canada to engage in public discourse, we want to make it easy for them to take action and champion change.

Why? Because we love Canada, but we also know that it's an imperfect nation with many social inequities, and we want it to be better. We do this work because we want to make it easier for folks to practice active allyship and champion change.

The best thing about us? We're a ragtag team of your friendly neighbourhood nerds and active citizens - 170 internet strangers that volunteer, some full-time, to make this project possible. We're grassroots, Millennial and Gen Z led, volunteer-based. Our executive leadership is comprised of a diverse group of women-identifying folk between the ages of 21-31 who have never met in real life. Our project is currently self-funded but accepting financial contributions.

Please visit our website (www.oncanadaproject.ca), and follow us on Instagram ([@oncanadaproject](https://www.instagram.com/oncanadaproject))!

About [Samanta Krishnapillai](#), Founder & Executive Director:

Samanta is a creative problem solver who actively challenges the status quo. While nearing the completion of a Master's degree in Health Information Science from Western University (London, Ontario), she founded The On Canada Project. Sam is passionately transitioning her education into action by engaging audiences in conversations about health equity, trauma and violence informed care, diversity and inclusion and system change. Samanta was recently named one of Best Health Magazines Women of the Year and 2020 Health Hero, and Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action named her a trailblazer in their 2021 Top 30 under 30 list.

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