



The Ottawa Mission's Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation: Backgrounder

The Ottawa Mission exists on the unceded, unsundered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation, whose presence on this land reaches back to time immemorial.

As part of its strategic plan, The Ottawa Mission is developing a Reconciliation Action Plan given the disproportionate number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit shelter and community clients we serve. We do not want to passively assume that Indigenous Peoples who turn to our shelter for help will all automatically feel welcome and comfortable. As such, we want to implement cross-program supports such as anti-racism, Reconciliation, and Indigenous cultural safety training for all staff, volunteers and partners. We also want to publicly report annually on our efforts as part of our accountability to the community. And as part of this plan, we also want to help address the conditions in society that have led to the burden of homelessness amongst First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples through advocacy, programming, and other initiatives.

This Reconciliation poster and companion document is The Mission's public statement of accountability to our community of our commitment to walk the path of Reconciliation to ensure that Indigenous community members feel welcome in our shelter and we can respond to their needs. We are honoured to work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people toward this end.

THE HISTORY of colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism in Canada is clear. Canada's relationship with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples has sought to forcibly assimilate them into the dominant culture by undermining their family structures, cultures, spiritualities, languages, governments, rights, livelihoods and relationships to the land.

THE LEGACY of colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism in Canada is also clear. This legacy has affected and continues to negatively impact almost every aspect of the lives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples across Canada today.

Indigenous Peoples have existed in the land called Canada from time immemorial.

The Ottawa Mission affirms the inherent rights of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples as well as the Treaty Rights of all First Nations across this land.

The Ottawa Mission continuously sees the impact of colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation for their generosity as hosts for our continuing work to support vulnerable community members on their lands.

The Ottawa Mission commits to Reconciliation that reflects the strength and resiliency of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, based on right relations between Indigenous and settler populations, founded on *truth, respect and an aligned understanding* of our shared history as *one family*.

THE OTTAWA MISSION COMMITS PUBLICLY TO WALKING THE PATH OF RECONCILIATION WITH OUR FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT PARTNERS TO:



Examine and monitor our own practices

to ensure that all non-Indigenous staff, volunteers and partners **receive anti-racism, reconciliation, and Indigenous cultural safety training** so that all Indigenous clients, staff, volunteers and partners feel welcome, safe and unconditionally accepted.



Tell the truth

about Canada's history with First Peoples.



Evaluate and report on our efforts annually

to judge progress and adjust as required.



Call out conditions in society

that contribute to the disproportionate burden of homelessness and housing precarity for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples to advocate for change.



Support increased safe, appropriate and affordable housing

for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples through advocacy and partnerships.