



Reconciliation Proclamation

We, the delegates to Sacred Assembly '95, gathered together in Hull, Quebec on December 6 - 9, 1995, having come from the four corners of this land — East, West, North, and South — and having brought with us diverse spiritual backgrounds, and having listened to and prayed with Elders, spiritual leaders and with each other, are able to assert the following:

We share, as part of our common spiritual foundation, the belief that:

- the Creator God reigns supreme over all things;
- the land on which we live was created for the benefit of all;
- as the original inhabitants of this land, Aboriginal peoples have a special right and responsibility to ensure the continuing integrity of the land and the unity and well-being of its inhabitants; and
- non-Aboriginal Canadians also now share in these responsibilities.

We share the recognition

- that reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians must be rooted in a spiritual understanding of land as a gift from the Creator God;
- the sins of injustice which have historically divided Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples remain active in our society today;
- concrete actions must be taken by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples alike to overcome these injustices and to bind up the wounds of those who have suffered;

We share an understanding

- that the starting point for healing and reconciliation lies in personal communion with the Creator God;
- while change must take place at all levels of society, it must be rooted most firmly in the communities; and
- relations based on justice will require respect for past treaties, a fair settlement of land rights disputes, the implementation of the inherent right of self-government and the creation of economic development opportunities and other institutions to support it.

We share a commitment

As individuals:

- to seek the personal guidance and counsel of Elders and spiritual leaders in order to walk more closely with the Creator God;
- to return to our communities and develop ways to continue the process of healing and reconciliation that has begun at Sacred Assembly '95;
- to continue to explore with each other our sacred foundations, in order to bring about spiritual reconciliation, Aboriginal justice and the fulfillment of political responsibilities in this country;
- to continue to respect the differences in our spiritual journeys, even as we seek to discover the common spiritual link between us.

As churches and faith communities:

- to continue the process of healing and reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples, by providing the forums and supports needed to heal the wounds created in the past;
- to become stronger advocates for justice and reconciliation in current and future public affairs, and to hold our governments accountable for the implementation of just policies;
- to recommit ourselves to a program of education and action on issues relating to land rights, self-government, economic development and racism.

As First Nations and Aboriginal communities and organizations:

- to work towards healing and reconciliation within our own communities;
- to accept the challenge issued by our Youth to create an environment in our communities that encourages a healthy view of oneself and respect for others, and which also addresses community conflicts that prevent Youth from finding their path.