

# Building Bridges – Creating Connections

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*“Proceed at the speed  
of trust”*

*Justice Sinclair*

*“We will carry your  
pain, share your pain,  
take some of your pain  
away and move  
forward”* Councillor  
*Brian Pincott, Calgary*

*“Listen to our  
Miscarriages and  
stand with us.”* Chief  
*Greg Najiwons ,  
Saugeen First Nation”*

*“Education is the key  
to reconciliation “*

*Justice Sinclair*

## **Making the Connections-**

The connections will be different in each community.

1. Do the homework- Reading on Line or with books helps to identify where to start.  
50% of Canadians say they don't understand Indigenous Issues.  
Thomas King- Inconvenient Indian  
The Truth About Stories  
  
Until Our Hearts Are On The Ground- D.Memee Lavell-Harvard  
  
The Comeback- John Ralston- Saul
2. Increase the Knowledge Base of the Group- Bring someone in to speak or watch a movie and discuss. Ideally someone from your community would be most helpful.
3. Act;  
Write letters  
Host community get togethers  
Send letters to the editor of your local paper
4. Make sure your local hospital has a protocol that is helpful to indigenous people coming to emergency and being admitted to hospital. Write and ask for that protocol. If they don't have one, ask them when they will proceed with this and offer help.
5. Check that your local library has representative books and articles that reflect indigenous history and current needs.
6. Ask your local town council for their plan to accommodate the TRC recommendations.
7. Ask employers in your area for Human Resources plans for helping current employees learn about indigenous history..
8. Advocate and participate in the creation of a commemorative statutory holiday to honour survivors, their families and communities- and to ensure “public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. “ TRC report.
9. Advocate for and participate in the creation of memorials in your community to commemorate participation of Indigenous Peoples in the World Wars, to honour local history and individuals. ( naming a bridge or park, new street names, plaques, sculptures etc)