



HIP
Honouring Indigenous Peoples

ONE FIRE CANADA

CASE FOR SUPPORT



Reconciliation happens between people.

Not in boardrooms. Not in policy papers. Between people.

Circle of Support

Reconciliation is built through relationships. We are grateful for the leaders, partners, Elders, volunteers, youth, and community champions who have walked alongside HIP and shared their reflections on the impact of this work.

“HIP's dedication to educating students across Canada about the rich history and culture of Indigenous Peoples is not only commendable but vital to our shared path of Reconciliation.”

Phyllis Webstad

Founder of Orange Shirt Day
& Residential School Survivor



“HIP's staff and board are organized, passionate, and dedicated to building and engaging in meaningful and equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples.”

J.P. Gladu

Anishinaabe, Sand Point FN
& Former President & CEO CCAB





HIP (HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES)

ABOUT HIP

HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) is a registered Canadian charitable corporation dedicated to advancing Truth and Reconciliation through education, relationship-building, youth leadership, and meaningful action. Founded in 2014, we bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together to build understanding, foster respect, and create lasting change across Canada.

Our foundation is a simple belief: reconciliation begins with relationships. Many organizations talk about reconciliation. HIP demonstrates it. Our Board of Directors is 50% Indigenous and 50% non-Indigenous, gender-balanced, and geographically diverse. Our governance reflects our values - listening, shared leadership, and mutual respect. The way we operate is a living example of the future we're working to build.

Through our flagship National Youth-to-Youth (Y2Y) Gatherings, Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from across Canada come together to build friendships, develop leadership skills, and deepen their understanding of our shared history. Participants return home as ambassadors for reconciliation - in their schools, their communities, and their Rotary clubs. HIP's work is strengthened by partnerships with Indigenous communities, educational institutions, businesses, foundations, and more than 175 Rotary clubs from coast to coast.

Partnerships Are Built On Trust. And Trust Is Earned

That's why HIP has spent more than a decade on the road - visiting, listening, and building programs based on what communities actually need, not what we assume. We do not guess. We ask. Then we deliver.

That approach has produced something real. Today, more Indigenous youth apply to our Y2Y Gatherings than non-Indigenous youth. Indigenous families, Elders, and community leaders are choosing to send their young people to spend a week building relationships with youth from very different worlds.

Given Canada's history, that is not a small thing.

Residential schools removed Indigenous children from their families, their languages, and their cultures. The harm runs deep and continues across generations. The fact that Indigenous communities choose to work alongside us - and entrust us with their youth - is something we hold not as an entitlement, but as a responsibility.

Every Y2Y Gathering is built on that responsibility.

Trust is earned. It is nurtured. And it is honoured.

At HIP, reconciliation is not just what we do. It is how we do it.

The Problem

Two Solitudes. One Fire.

Every year in Canada, Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people grow up in the same cities, attend the same schools, and breathe the same air - but never actually meet. Not really. Not in a way that changes anything.

The statistics are familiar. The headlines are recurring. The apologies have been made. What hasn't happened - at scale, is the simple, human act of young people from different worlds choosing to know each other.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada identified this gap explicitly. Calls to Action 62 through 66 call for education, curriculum reform, and youth leadership as the path forward. Not programs. Not performances. Permanent change, built one relationship at a time.

"Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem. It is a Canadian one."

TRC FINAL REPORT



The Solution

Youth-to-Youth. Human-to-Human.

HIP was founded on a simple but powerful belief: the most effective instrument of reconciliation is a genuine human relationship.

Through our flagship Youth-to-Youth (Y2Y) Gathering, Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from across Canada come together to build understanding, friendships, and leadership skills that last a lifetime. The program is developed in partnership with host Indigenous communities and led by local Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educators, and community leaders, ensuring an authentic and unfiltered learning experience grounded in lived realities.

Built around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, Y2Y encourages participants to engage with history honestly, listen with respect, and develop the relationships necessary for meaningful reconciliation.

Offered completely free of charge to participants, Y2Y transforms perspectives, strengthens communities, and helps build the next generation of reconciliation leaders. ~ Simply put, it works.



Youth Certified 100%

100% of youth tell us this experience has profoundly impacted them, and they eagerly express a desire to attend again.

Eligibility:

- 15-17 years old
- Canadian Citizen or Landed Immigrant
- Studying at the secondary school level

Sample Itinerary

What Participants Experience

SESSION	CURRICULUM	LEARNING GOALS
ONLINE LEARNING SESSIONS		
DAY 1	Welcome & Overview of HIP Y2Y 2025	Participants will learn about the program, meet fellow participants, build connections through breakout sessions, and have an opportunity to ask questions.
DAY 2	Indigenous Cultural Competency Part 1	Explore the rich diversity of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures through their languages, traditions, arts, music, histories, and ways of knowing.
DAY 3	Indigenous Cultural Competency Part 2	Develop a deeper understanding of Indigenous histories and experiences, including the impacts of colonization and residential schools, while exploring reconciliation, cultural revitalization, and strategies for building a stronger future together.
DAY 4	Being an Upstander - Canadian Museum for Human Rights	Empower participants to become informed and active citizens who contribute to reconciliation through meaningful engagement, respectful dialogue, effective advocacy, and a deeper understanding of Indigenous perspectives and communities.
DAY 5	Effective Media and Presentation Skills	Develop communication and leadership skills through storytelling, cross-cultural dialogue, and confident public engagement.
IN-PERSON WEEK		
DAY 6	Travel Day	Youth from across Canada gather on the traditional territory of the host Indigenous Nation for check-in, orientation, and a welcome to the land.
DAY 7	Truth & Reconciliation	Through a presentation by Residential School Survivor and Orange Shirt Day founder Phyllis Webstad, participants will gain insight into the legacy and lasting impacts of residential schools.
DAY 8	Local Indigenous Culture	Celebrate and deepen understanding of the artistry, traditions, and resilience of Indigenous communities through cultural learning and meaningful engagement.
DAY 9	Land-Based Education	Develop a deeper connection to the land through visits to significant sites and learning about Indigenous knowledge, stewardship, and sustainable practices.
DAY 10	Indigenous Language	Explore the connection between Indigenous languages, identity, and worldview while recognizing the importance of language revitalization.
DAY 11	Indigenous Perspective	Explore examples of Indigenous leadership, governance, and cultural revitalization while understanding their role in building strong, vibrant, and resilient communities.
DAY 12	Farewells & Departures	Participants return home with new knowledge, relationships, and the confidence to lead positive change.

12 YEARS

Our Legacy of Impact

Building Relationships. Creating Leaders. Advancing Reconciliation.

HIP has spent more than a decade building what works, not what looks good in a report. Since 2014, we have advanced Truth and Reconciliation through a simple but powerful belief: lasting change happens when people build genuine relationships with one another. That belief has guided every gathering, partnership, and conversation we have undertaken.

250+ Youth Leaders Connected

More than 250 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from communities across Canada have participated in the HIP Y2Y Experience, building relationships that transcend geography, culture, and background.

6 National and Regional Gatherings Delivered

Including four National Youth-to-Youth Gatherings, bringing together young people from coast to coast to coast to learn, share, and lead together.

50,000+ Canadians Reached

Y2Y alumni return home as ambassadors for reconciliation, sharing their experiences through presentations, community projects, schools, service clubs, workplaces, and personal networks. The ripple effect extends far beyond the youth who attend.

Thousands of Volunteers and Supporters Engaged

Through partnerships with Rotary clubs and districts, Indigenous communities, educators, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, businesses, and community organizations across Canada.

Coast-to-Coast Community Relationships

HIP has travelled across Canada listening, learning, and building relationships with Indigenous communities, ensuring our programs are informed by community voices rather than assumptions.

Creating Lasting Value

Independent Social Return on Investment analysis estimates that every \$1 invested in HIP generates approximately \$10.75 in long-term social value through improved youth leadership, increased employability, stronger mental health outcomes, greater social inclusion, and enhanced community engagement.

Why It Matters

Reconciliation cannot be taught solely through textbooks. It is built through shared experiences, honest conversations, meaningful relationships, and young people who return home committed to creating stronger communities. Every youth who participates in HIP becomes part of a growing national network of leaders helping build a more connected, inclusive, and resilient Canada.

Testimonials



“This experience was a real eye opener, the elders I got to meet were incredible and the stories they had to share were extraordinary and inspired me to make changes in my community.”

Derek Monias
Indigenous Youth Participant



“After his return, the student's transformation has been remarkable. He's now more confident and happier than ever. Thank you again for supporting him on this journey.”

Rebecca Sanderson, Teacher



“Learning about Indigenous culture is important for understanding both sides of the story like learning Indigenous culture it means I can understand the other aspect I can understand why the land is so important”

Cameron Ross
Non-Indigenous Youth Participant

Our Vision, Our Opportunity

Over the past decade, HIP has proven the model works. Meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth create lasting change. The question before us now isn't whether it works.

The question is: what happens next?

\$2.5 Million Capacity-Building Campaign (2026–2031)

Every year, young people leave our Youth-to-Youth Gatherings inspired. Many go home changed. One Fire Canada exists to make sure that momentum doesn't stop at the airport.

Over the next five years, HIP's goal is to raise \$2.5 million to expand nationally, strengthen organizational capacity, and support the next 250 youth through the Y2Y Experience. As part of that vision, participants will receive accredited recognition - credentials in cultural competency, reconciliation, environmental stewardship, and leadership that open real doors in education and employment. But the Y2Y Experience is often the beginning of a young person's journey. Not the end.

Many alumni return home with real ambitions and not enough resources to act on them. That's why One Fire Canada includes two new streams of support:

Youth Leadership Bursaries - financial support for alumni pursuing education, training, and leadership development.

Youth-Initiated Project Funding - seed money and mentorship for youth-led reconciliation and environmental initiatives across Canada.

This campaign will also build the foundation to transition HIP into a truly youth-led organization - with governance, programming, and decision-making increasingly guided by Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people.

Every dollar invested multiplies. In classrooms. In communities. Around kitchen tables. Long after the program ends.

A Legacy for Future Generations

Alongside the campaign, HIP is pursuing a more ambitious long-term goal: a \$10 million Permanent Endowment Fund.

One fire can light countless others without diminishing its own flame. Fully funded, this endowment would generate approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually - a perpetual source of support for youth leadership, cultural exchange, and reconciliation, preserving the principal while funding the work forever.

It is a lofty goal. But it is worthy of the young people we serve.

More than a fund, it is a permanent investment in the future of Canada.



Thank *You!*

CONTACT US

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or visit

HONOURINGINDIGENOUSPEOPLES.COM

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A CANADIAN
CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPT.