



## SO, NOW WHAT?

While this project represents our focused work this school year, it is essential to recognize that reconciliation will not and cannot authentically happen overnight. In the words of Justice Murray Sinclair, it will take generations. So as a school, this project represents our ongoing commitment to bear witness to what was, admit what is, and take action for what can be.

## A MEMORABLE MOMENT...

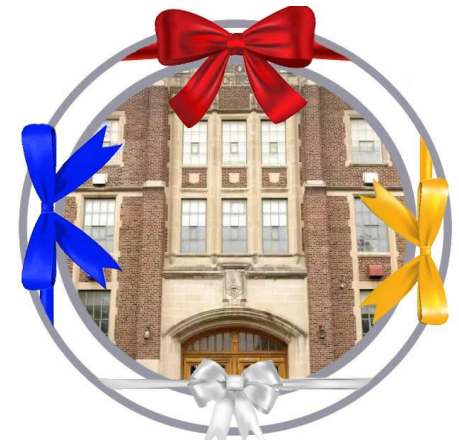


On Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Balfour Collegiate had a meaningful flag raising ceremony. The Treaty 4 flag now flies proudly in front of our school, recognizing the territory we stand on. This is another small step towards reconciliation.



# The Ribbon Project

**Balfour Collegiate:  
A Mission of Reconciliation**



*Tie us together  
Ribbon by ribbon  
Like a quilt of peace for  
Our world  
Sew in all shades of  
Color  
Let it lead us to unity and  
Love*

**- Ava Wild  
Balfour student**

**WHAT DOES  
RECONCILIATION  
MEAN TO YOU?**

For the past year, students and teachers at Balfour Collegiate have been working to take up the TRC Calls to Action in authentic and meaningful ways. We were inspired by the TRC's personal ribbon campaign. The Balfour Ribbon Project represents this collaborative work.

## WHO WAS INVOLVED?

This school wide initiative involved over 20 teachers and 400 students. Working in conjunction with educator and designer, Tracey George Heese from the Ochapowace First Nation, students learned more about the colonial past and present of Canada in order to work towards a more equitable, just future.



Tracey shared her personal experiences as she recounted her grandmother and mother's experiences in residential schools, her mother's subsequent murder, as well as Tracey's own memories as she was taken away from her family, along with her sisters, as part of the 60s scoop. Tracey continued to connect the on-going legacies of colonial policies of the Government of Canada to the lived realities of many Indigenous peoples in Canada.

## WHAT WAS THE PROCESS?

Students were reminded of the Federal Government's apology and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission before considering the TRC's 94 calls to action. Each student selected one call to action that they personally could connect with and designed a way they could visually present this response.



Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada:  
Calls to Action



Following the selection of their cloth and ribbon materials, students met with Life Speaker Noel Starblanket in the school's tipi to discuss reconciliation and to smudge their materials.



Students then returned to the classroom to complete their creative piece which represented their promise to respond in authentic, meaningful ways. Tracey George Heese has taken the individual student pieces and joined them to signify our shared commitment to reconciliation.



This collective piece of student and staff promises that you see below is displayed at the front of Balfour Collegiate along with the Federal Government's apology to Indian Residential school survivors. Smaller installations will be on display throughout the building as we situate ourselves within our shared context, working towards restoring the balance within relationships towards a more just future.

