

WAAZAKONEWINAAGAN THE DIGITAL BASKET



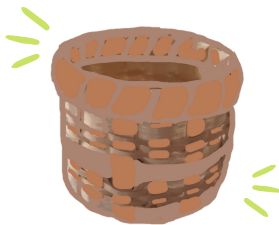
A RESOURCE BY CASSANDRA SPADE & THINKING ROCK COMMUNITY ARTS

The Digital Basket is a resource for Indigenous, Settler & Newcomer folx that reinforces the practice of slowing down, putting meaning into work, relationship-building and intergenerational sharing. Each basket strip will represent different, localized (to the Algoma and Great Lakes region) actions that incorporate the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' (TRC) Calls to Action, and raise awareness about the historical and ongoing legacy of the Indian Residential School Policy (IRSP).

INSPIRATION

The Anishinaabeg, Métis and other Indigenous peoples along the Great Lakes have been practicing basket-weaving since time immemorial. The process relies on slow handiwork and the intergenerational sharing of patterns, practices and stories; instilling a reflective pace of the maker and creating a relationship with the handiwork. With this reflection, we invite you to think about your own relationships to and with the Indigenous peoples of these lands, and to engage in a process that is all about slowing down and building relationships. In this, we are all woven together.

WHAT'S IN THE DIGITAL BASKET



- Hotline Numbers & Supports
- Land Acknowledgement Resource & Interactive Map
- Digital Exhibitions, Podcasts, e-Books & Resources
- Action Plan Template
- Reflective Questions & Prompts
- Woven Basket Kit

CONTENT WARNING: If you are working through this kit with children and/or youth, please review the content beforehand. Some of these resources interview survivors of residential schools and the child welfare system, and depict the harsh treatment of Indigenous children. If you're seeking an alternative, we'd recommend finding resources that celebrate Indigenous peoples, their cultures, languages and lands, and which reinforce the importance of celebrating Indigenous identities and promoting relationship-building by learning and listening.

PROCESS & HOW-TO

Included in your kit are strips of paper cut 8.5" long by 1.5" wide. Each will be folded over three times with reflections & actions inscribed on them - by you!



As you work your way through these Digital Basket instructions, you will encounter different strips - headers - that introduce an activity. With each activity, we invite you to engage in self-learning about Settler-colonialism in Canada and to think critically about your own roles in putting the TRC's Calls to Action into action. These headers are hyperlinked to PDF files, resource lists, etc. to support your reflection and self-learning.

With each activity you undertake, we also invite you to work on one of the basket strips included in your kit: by writing reflections on them, drawing on them and marking them in whichever way you see fit. You'll then use these strips to weave a paper basket through a slow process, focusing on your own learnings and weaving together your actions, reflections and goals in the pursuit of Truth and Reconciliation.



SUPPORTS & COMMUNITY

Engaging with Truth and Reconciliation, Settler-colonialism, and self-learning about the ongoing history and legacy of Canada can be challenging - bringing complex emotions to the surface. Therefore, it is important to identify tools, supports and resources that work for you when processing difficult emotions. These supports can range from hotlines, to artful expressions like reflective writing, to visiting with loved ones, and all things in between.

We have provided a card with some hotline numbers and invite you to compile your own, personalized list of self-care resources, so that you can work towards the TRC's Calls to Action supported by community care.



REFLECTION

Write a list of comforts, safe community spaces and supports: What do you need to re-fuel, rest, or ground yourself?

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & INTERACTIVE MAP

* Learn about Land Acknowledgements and why we do it: <https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

* Find out whose land and territory you live on, what treaties exist and what languages live there. Check out <https://native-land.ca/> for an interactive map!



REFLECTION

What are my own relationships to and with the Indigenous peoples of this land?



Get to know the languages of the Indigenous peoples too - challenge yourself and try learning a new Indigenous word everyday

REFLECTION & ACTIONS

Here you will be introduced to creating a TRC Action Plan and working on skills of reflection. As you work through the Learning & Listening strips, please reflect on ways you can work towards Truth and the Calls to Action.

*Remember this work is slow, and takes time - take breaks for reflective walks and artful actions like dancing to your favorite music, or drawing trees outdoors

TRC ACTION PLAN

*Copy provided in kit

1. Read through the Calls to Action
2. Reflect on plan - what are my goals?
3. Select an Action Item to put into practice
4. Compile a list of resource available to you
5. Identify possible actions to support your goal



REFLECTION

What is your own role in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action?

LEARNING & LISTENING: RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN CANADA & THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC)

- * Digital Voices - Podcast
 - [Residential School Podcast - Historica Canada](#)

Write or draw
your reflections
and thoughts
on your strips

- * Digital Exhibits
 - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation:
<https://nctr.ca/exhibits/>
 - [Google Earth: Residential Schools](#)
 - Legacy of Hope Virtual Exhibits:
<https://legacyofhope.ca/home/exhibitions/>

Be kind to yourself,
take breaks &
reach out to
support when you
need to.
This work can be
exhausting,
emotional & hard.

- * TRC and the 94 Calls to Action
 - <https://nctr.ca/>
 - <https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>
 - [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
 - [CBC News: Truth and Reconciliation in Canada: Beyond 94](#)

LISTENING & LEARNING IN ALGOMA: RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

- * Digital Walk
 - 360 Digital Shingwauk Residential School Tour:
<http://liberty360.ca/Algoma/9/360.html>

- * Digital Books
 - [Shingwauk Narratives: Sharing Residential School History e-Book](#)
 - [Healing and Reconciliation Through Education e-Book](#)

TRC ACTION PLAN

What are your personal goals,
reflections and possible actions?
Describe them in your TRC Action
Plan!



MY TRC ACTION PLAN

TRC Action #

My personal goals

Resources

Actions

Reflections





Examples

- Donate to Indigenous-led Initiatives
- Amplify Indigenous voices
- Return Indigenous lands

MAKING YOUR DIGITAL BASKET: MATERIALS

- Completed digital basket strips: 9 paper basket strips measuring 8.5 inches by 1.5 inches (8.5" x 1.5") each
- Cardboard circle: 2.5 inches (2.5") in diameter
- Pencils, markers and other writing and colouring supplies
- Glue stick
- Paper clips
- Optional: Basket bits for decoration and self-expression, including yarn, string, paper and fabrics (and other materials as you desire)

HOW-TO: WEAVING PAPER STRIPS

- 1 Work through the digital basket strips - adding your reflections and other markings onto the 8.5" x 1.5" paper strips as you go - this will take time!
- 2 Fold all 9 of the paper strips widthwise into thirds, until you have .5 inch width x 8.5 inch length (0.5" x 8.5")
- 3 Next, lay 4 paper strips beside one another 
- 4 Then, take another paper strip and weave it over and under 
- 5 Then, take another paper strip and weave it opposite of the first - under and over 
- 6 Continue alternating paper strips until you have used all the paper strips
- 7 Fold the remaining pieces over into the weaving, tucking in the edges, or glue them down 

HOW-TO: WEAVING PAPER STRIPS

1

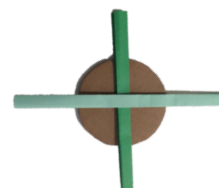
Work through the digital basket strips in this resource - adding your reflections and other markings onto the 8.5" x 1.5" paper strips as you go - this will take time!

2

Fold all 9 of the paper strips widthwise into thirds, until you have .5 inch width x 8.5 inch length (0.5" x 8.5")

3

Next, take the cardboard circle and place two paper strips so that they are crossing over one another to form a cross atop the circle



4

Then, add two more paper strips - resulting in 4 paper strips crossed over one another like a compass (at this point you may want to glue down these pieces to the circle of cardboard)



5

Next, turn the cardboard circle over so the paper strips are behind the cardboard circle and fold the paper strips towards the center of the cardboard circle

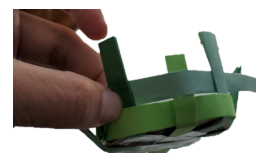
6

Once all the paper strips have been folded, take a new paper strip and begin weaving it over and under the paper strips folded along the cardboard circle - this will be the first strip in forming the basket (you may find it helpful to use a paper clip to secure the first paper strip into place)



7

Continue weaving until the remaining paper strips have been woven in - at this point there will be about 1 inch of leftover paper strip remaining



8

Then, take the remaining strip ends and fold them over into the woven basket so the ends become hidden in your weaving (you may choose to glue the paper strips down)

9

Lastly, weave the bits and bobs found in your woven basket kit (pipe cleaners, fabric strip, yarn, etc.) into your basket for added woven texture as desired.

