

Decolonizing Pledge

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The BC Food Systems Network acknowledges that the place referred to as British Columbia has always been home to 27 Indigenous Nations who have been here since time immemorial.

We believe that BC and Canadian society owes its prosperity to colonization. We understand colonization as a system that is founded on land theft, ecological destruction, racism, apartheid and genocide. We understand colonialism as an ongoing process that continues to benefit settler society; justice demands decolonization. When fully realized, decolonization would liberate the land, its people, and its settlers. We hold to a vision where Indigenous Nations and settlers share the land in a just and peaceful relationship, and where indigenous sovereignty is fully recognized, including political, economic, and territorial self-determination.

I therefore pledge to do my part to advance the process of decolonization for myself as well as for our respective and joint communities. I pledge to take the following actions before the end of 2016.

- I will discover upon whose territory I reside
- I will study and use Dawn Morrison's Decolonizing Food Systems Discourse: Contentious and Complementary Terms
- I will attend an event organized by Indigenous people
- I will read the Executive Summary of the Truth & Reconciliation reports
- I will read the Truth & Reconciliation reports
- I will learn about the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
- I will read the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- I will join the call for justice for the Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women and Children
- I will read Jeanette Armstrong's *Slash*, Arthur Manuel's *Unsettling Canada*, or Lee Maracle's *I Am Woman* (for starters...)
- I will listen to *Unreserved* on CBC radio
- I will watch Aboriginal People's Television Network
- I will learn about the so-called "60's scoop"
- I will educate myself about the Residential School system and its impact
- I will learn the difference between a hereditary and an elected Chief
- I will volunteer at Indigenous events
- I will donate to Indigenous organizations
- I will educate myself on the difference between historical and modern-day treaties and why extinguishment of Aboriginal rights and title is unacceptable
- I will learn what nation-to-nation relationships might look like on the territory I live on
- I will organize a book club that reads Indigenous authors
- I will educate myself on the ways in which colonialism is not a thing of the past but very much present and pervasive today
- I will learn how environmental racism is practiced in Canada against Indigenous communities, for instance in Grassy Narrows First Nation territory
- I am willing to be uncomfortable, since what a truly just and decolonized Canada will look like is not yet known.