Moderator's Message for National Indigenous Peoples Day 2023

Transcript of videotaped message

Greetings. I am the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples' Day, a day to recognize the unique heritage and diverse cultures of Indigenous Peoples across the country, from coast to coast to coast.

While on Truth and Reconciliation Day in September we recognize and commemorate the challenges and realities of our colonized and colonizing history in Canada, National Indigenous Peoples Day is a time of celebration to recognize and lift up the resilience of Indigenous people and communities, and to celebrate what we have to share with the rest of the country.

This year, I was invited to attend the National "Indspire" Awards, where I learned about so many inspiring Indigenous leaders who work and lead in many different sectors across the country.

There are a number of things you can do to celebrate or recognize this day:

- Attend a local celebration or cultural event; plan to attend with family, friends, or colleagues.
- Spend the day exploring the Indigenous heritage of the place where you work or live.
- Learn to introduce yourself in the Indigenous language or languages from where you live or work.
- Add to the Indigenous economy—support Indigenous businesses by shopping or dining in Indigenous-owned stores and restaurants (actually, this one you should do year-round).
- Support Indigenous programs through our Gifts with Vision partnerships. You can learn more at giftswithvision.ca.
- Listen to Indigenous music.
- Visit an art gallery or museum with a show curated by Indigenous Peoples.
- Read a book—fiction, nonfiction, or poetry—by an Indigenous author.
- Watch a movie or TV show featuring Indigenous direction, screenwriting, and acting.

Take time to share with others what National Indigenous Peoples Day is and how they can join you in the celebration. I know that many communities of faith have Reconciliation Matters committees, which is a great place to build community and discuss the ways in which you engaged with Indigenous culture this National Indigenous Peoples Day.

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