“Reconciliation”

* A powerful word

* Not just a feel-good concept, which can be achieved by a few words of sorrow followed by some handshakes or hugs

* Requires making right the wrong that occurred

* Requires a full and fair acknowledgment of the wrong, followed by a real settlement, usually requiring the transfer of money and/or property, and the punishment and/or disgrace of those who committed the wrongs
Closure and Reconciliation

(1) An **Apology** for the wrong, which can be general or specific

(2) An **investigation and accounting**

(3) **Compensation for the victims**, either through a general class approach, or through individual determinations, or both

(4) **Prosecution of the wrongdoers**
What Is a “Reconciliation”?  

* It requires something more than being nice or showing respect.

* It requires **positive steps** to correct a wrong, to **make amends**, to achieve a **settlement** or **resolution** of the dispute.  
Examples of "Reconciliations"

* Canada’s “Statement of Reconciliation” issuing a formal apology and establishing a $245 million “healing fund” to provide compensation for the thousands of indigenous children who were taken from their homes and forced to attend racist residential schools where they were deprived of their families and culture and were sometimes physically and sexually abused. (January 7, 1998)

* The transfer of a 750-square-mile area south of Alaska, containing majestic pine forests, crystal streams, and towering peaks-- along with the legal rights to run their own nation-- to the 5,000-member Nisga’a Tribe. (August 4, 1998)