

## **“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
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- \* 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

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(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. Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary 984 (1990).

## 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)