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Healing process begins Reconciliation meeting at Winnipeg's Forks draws 500 people

By Angela Brown
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WINNIPEG -- And so, the process of reconciliation begins. About 400 people attended a four-hour reconciliation gathering at The Forks Market in Winnipeg on Monday night -- Remembering the Children, which supports the work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In an emotional outpouring, many church leaders apologized for the wrongs that have been committed against Indian residential school survivors for approximately 150 years.

Central Plains-area resident and survivor Jeannette Houle attended the event and said she hoped it would help bring some healing to her people.



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Ron Evans speaks during Remembering the Children, which supports the work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, at The Forks Market Court in Winnipeg on Monday.

Staff photo by Angela Brown

"We're not suffering in silence anymore," she said. "Everybody is going to know about it and those that did not believe will now hear the truth of the people."

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Ron Evans spoke during the event and said people need to forgive, but not forget what occurred at aboriginal residential schools in this country.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is currently being formed and it will travel across Canada to engage local churches and survivors in the process of healing and increase public awareness. The commission will also establish a research centre and ensure the preservation of its archives, which would include statements and documents provided by former residential school students. The commission will be appointed by the federal government through an Order in Council.

For the full story, see today's issue of The Daily Graphic. To provide your feedback on this story, please contact abrown@cpheraldleader.com or get an online subscription to The Daily Graphic by e-mailing circulation@cpheraldleader.com

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