

Prayer Shawl and Lap Blanket Request

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) is holding its Alberta National Event in Edmonton from March 27 to 30, 2014. During this gathering many survivors of Indian Residential Schools will be sharing their truth about their experiences at the schools. We are invited to come and witness, learn and celebrate the resilience of Aboriginal cultures!

At the B.C. National Event in September, hand-knitted prayer shawls were given to many of the survivors in the churches' listening to survivors' area. These gifts were greatly appreciated by those who received them.

We would like to continue this practice at the Edmonton TRC National Event, so we are inviting those who knit, sew and make quilts to create one or more prayer shawls or lap blankets to be given to survivors as a sign of our respect and compassion and desire for healing and reconciliation. We are anticipating that at the bare minimum we will need 500 shawls or blankets. The shawls or blankets can be any patterns or color, keeping in mind the intent that they will be wrapped around shoulders and placed across laps. Please encourage any friends, family, work associates, or casual contacts to participate in this project, if it seems appropriate to you.

As you create your shawl or blanket, we ask that you centre on why you are doing this and imagine the warmth and good wishes that you are embedding in the prayer shawl or lap blanket for the one who will receive it.

Prayer Shawls can be brought to the *Churches Listening to Survivors Area* at the Shaw Conference Centre on March 27th, or may be dropped off by March 25th at any one of the following churches:

- **Hillhurst United Church.** 1227 Kensington Close NW, Calgary. Phone: (403) 283-1539. Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Email: office@hillhurstunited.com
- **Robertson-Wesley United Church.** 10209 - 123 Street NW. Edmonton. Phone: (780) 482-1587. Office hours: Tuesday thru Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday nights from 6:00 - 9:00 pm.
- **St. Albert United Church.** 20 Green Grove Drive, St Albert. (780) 458-8355. Office hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.
- **St. Faith's Anglican Church.** 11725 93 St. NW. Edmonton. (780) 422-3240.
- **St. Paul's United Church.** 11526 76 Ave. NW, Edmonton. (780) 436-1555. Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- **Sherwood Park United Church,** 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park (780-467-7377). Office hours: Monday - 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Tuesday - Thursday: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- **Southminster Steinhauer United Church,** 10740 - 19 Avenue, Edmonton. (780-435-2028) Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **Trinity United Church,** 8810 Meadowlark Road, Edmonton (780-489-0860). Office hours: Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.