

# The Youth invite you on



# a reconciliation trip....

The youth of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Ontario and Productions Cazabon request your support to roll up our sleeves together on closing the gaps of living conditions and creating greater awareness and understanding between Canadians and First Nations.

## ***Reconciliation for Canadians***

*Youth invite 25 Canadians 'home' on their remote reserve*

The Youth of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug living in the remote Boreal forest of Northwestern Ontario invite you in their homes on an all-inclusive trip

The youth & their community graciously open their homes to 25 Canadians and look forward to:

- An honest dialogue on their living conditions
- Sharing their pride in the beauty of their culture set in their pristine land on Big Trout Lake
- Making the invisible visible through an unforgettable act of friendship & reconciliation

... More than anything, the youth want to create an opportunity to showcase their positive leadership and the spirit of their community to shine through. Together, and with you, they will show that there is still hope and Nation-to-Nation unity that awaits us all.

**LEARN ABOUT RECONCILIATION:** [www.ReconciliationEducation.ca](http://www.ReconciliationEducation.ca)

**FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY** click here: [3rd World Canada Facebook Page](#)

**Mark the date: July 14 - 21st, 2016**



The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

# All-inclusive trip to KI:

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The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

# K.I. Reconciliation Event: an all-inclusive trip

## Event Dates:

The all-inclusive trip will take place from: **July 14 - 21st, 2016:**

## Charter travel Dates:

All-inclusive Charter Travel Dates with trip Coordinator, Andrée Cazabon depart from and arrive to: **(Toronto Island Billy Bishop Airport to KI with A.M. departures arriving in the community late afternoon)**

The all-inclusive package includes a Porter flight from Toronto and a North Star charter flight from Thunder Bay to KI. July 14th is an early morning departure from Toronto Island Airport and July 21st is a late afternoon departure from KI (Big Trout Lake airport). Exact arrival and departure times will be provided to guests by June 1st.

## Cost and Funding for the event:

Visitors to KI are always surprised at the cost of living in a remote fly-in community. Our trip together is no exception. Your fee only covers the direct and immediate costs of the trip while some of the youth-led activities related to your trip are in fact offset by the generosity of our partners and funders. Hard to believe but true! Once you are in K.I. you will realize just how rare, unique (and expensive) it is to travel to a remote First Nations community. A trip to the grocery store and chats with your host family will only confirm the high cost of living (a carton of eggs is \$14.00). How lucky we are to come together in this beautiful land. And for this, we extend our gratitude to:

## Funders and Partners:

This project is made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the **Audrey S. Hellyer Foundation**, community advocate **Josh Hellyer**, **Laidlaw Foundation** and the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**. **Productions Cazabon** and the **First Nations University of Canada** are the project partners and collaborators to the reconciliation trip project.



The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

# K.I. Reconciliation Event: an all-inclusive trip

## **Purpose:**

### **Youth Invite Canadians to K.I: July 14 - 21st, 2016:**

The youth of K.I extended an invitation to 25 Canadians to join them and live with them for one week on their remote reserve: to stay in their homes, share in their daily activities, see their deep connection to the land, their community, and their way of life. **'We want them to see our living conditions and the hope we still have'** says Youth Leader Justin Beardy.

The intention is to foster friendship and reconciliation between Canadians and the community in K.I. The youth are reaching out to host Canadians to build bridges towards understanding and a new vision for the future together. This is year four of an initiative which has never been offered before to Canadians.

## **Expectations of Guests: an invitation towards reconciliation**

The youth of KI invite 25 ordinary Canadians to their community with the expectation that they come with an open mind and a willingness to bridge the divide between First Nations and Canadians. The youth of KI hope that the Canadian guests will value and respect the honour of sharing in stories, traditions, history and our collective hopes for the future. The goal is to build Nation to Nation relationships and mutual respect. There are no obligations for the guests before or after the trip. The community hopes that those interested in a continued participation will share their experience and good memories with other Canadians once they return and spread the story of reconciliation. Opportunities to show the film, *3rd World Canada*, 2016 trip photo slideshow and share the experience 'back home' with KI youth leaders may present themselves in 2016 for those interested. In the past, KI Youth Leaders presented to close to 20 communities: the story of the Reconciliation Event.

Guests are invited to create transformative relationships with Indigenous people to deepen their commitments to reconciliation. Canadians who seek to: listen, learn, have fun, laugh, share, trust and foster friendship are welcome!

What are the first few steps along the way on a journey of reconciliation? Truth-telling and active listening. We believe that Canadians can best start a journey towards truth-gathering by learning directly from community members without intermediates.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## What is reconciliation?

Reconciliation is the process of building relationships and awareness through listening to truth and active self-education in order to create meaningful change to bring about justice and healing in a Nation to Nation process.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and their partner Productions Cazabon are reaching out to everyday Canadians to end the third world conditions that exist in their own backyard through acts of reconciliation awareness. The 2016 Reconciliation trip invites Canadians to become an ally to First Nation People by listening to their voices, deepening their awareness, and supporting First Nation-led outreach initiatives and goals so we may challenge the stereotypes and racist attitudes when we return home. First Nations communities and organizations are committed to solutions, projects and approaches that work for their communities. We are calling on Canadians to support First Nations-led initiatives and leadership and leave behind a history of 'finding solutions for them', a paternalistic approach that has had devastating consequences for our country. Together, in solidarity and friendship, we can do better and thrive as a country as a result. During the treaty re-enactment to take place during the trip, guests will learn that we are all treaty people and to support this knowledge within their own circles.

From Schedule N of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement:

*There is an emerging and compelling desire to put the events of the past behind us so that we can work towards a stronger and healthier future. The truth telling and reconciliation process as part of an overall holistic and comprehensive response to the Indian Residential School legacy is a sincere indication and acknowledgement of the injustices and harms experienced by Aboriginal people and the need for continued healing. This is a profound commitment to establishing new relationships embedded in mutual recognition and respect that will forge a brighter future. The truth of our common experiences will help set our spirits free and pave the way to reconciliation.*

To find out more about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, go to: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)

In parallel, you can also contrast Canada with Australia and its Reconciliation Australia movement which is engaging the very fabric of their Nation from government, private sector to students and children.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## **Questions and who to contact:**

We request that no direct communication be made to the community of KI and the Youth Leaders as we do not wish to burden the community's infrastructure with this event prior to our landing. The admin team in KI have been reassured that they would not have to answer possibly 50 guests' inquiries. We also believe that part of the journey is to take a risk into the unknown and to meet the community for the first time on the landing strip of the airport. We want to strike the right balance between preparing you (enough) for the trip while leaving a lot of room for the unknown, for discovery.

**All questions and requests are to be directed to the Southern trip Coordinator: Andrée Cazabon and the team at Productions Cazabon.**

If absolutely necessary, we will gladly put you in touch with the community.

The division of labour for this event is quite simple: the youth and community look after the activities, vision, teachings and preparation for the event in the 'North' while Productions Cazabon looks after communication and preparation in the 'South'. Once we arrive in K.I. we are in the hands of the community.

Andrée Cazabon

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# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## Organizational Team:

**The youth of KI are the lead in this event.** They lead on the vision, the goals and the rationale of this journey. The youth are supported by their partners Chief and Council as well as Productions Cazabon (producer of the film: *3rd World Canada* filmed in their community) who are assisting them with the production of this event.

With their partners and mentors, the youth are responsible for delivering the success of the event by overseeing every on-site detail of the event in KI.

Filmmaker Andrée Cazabon (Productions Cazabon) has been working and volunteering with the community of KI since 2007 with her film, *3rd World Canada* within the community and during tour travels in the South to raise awareness and invite Canadians to the reconciliation movement. She publishes reconciliation toolkits for schools and organizations ([www.ReconciliationEducation.ca](http://www.ReconciliationEducation.ca)). At the request of the community, she travels on a regular basis to KI to work with the youth in preparing the trip. She works with them on site and long-distance on a regular basis. She has extensive experience in traveling to and with the community and can at times, build bridges and connections between First Nations and Canadians, between the North and the South. Andrée Cazabon works directly for the youth and is a minority partner in the project. She is an ally to First Nations and has made a ten year commitment to reconciliation.

**A team of volunteers, funders and supporters** are also assisting 'on the ground' in the South. Most of these supporters were part of the journey of the *3rd World Canada* youth drum tour in the fall of 2012 and the KI trips and continue in friendship with the youth and community of KI.

## K.I. Leadership's Expertise in Organizing Large Scale Events:

K.I. has extensive expertise and local infrastructure to ensure event success. Last year's event was a total success and for some guests it landed in their top three lifetime experiences.

Every few years, the community has a traditional **Homecoming Event** which welcomes 1,200 guests in the communities from nearby FN communities and many associated organizations and VIPs. In addition, the community was selected to host the **Chiefs of Ontario Annual Meeting**. Leadership and community members have shared experience in hosting guests and properly looking after them. Every event is a success due to the community's buy-in and active participation in pulling together and having their community spirit shine through. Productions Cazabon is confident in the community's capacity and dedication to see this through.

**In September 2014 the community and Productions Cazabon partnered to coordinate a Royal Visit in K.I. inspired by and in support of the reconciliation trips.**



# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## **An all-inclusive trip:**

### **\*Lodging**

Accommodations for the guests will be in the homes of community members and possibly within the community's existent infrastructure (such as teacher's lodge, etc.). Part of the preparation for the trip will be preparing for the realities of the living conditions in KI. Most homes have electricity, running water and sewage system as well as internet connections, although none of these are guaranteed or may be very scarce. Over-crowded housing is part of the reality in KI and family members will accommodate guests by offering up a bedroom while family members sleep in the living room, at another's house or in a tent outside.

The richness of this opportunity comes in experiencing and living alongside the community in K.I. The intention is to get outside of our comfort zones and be willing to share space and lifestyle in a new home and community and to accept the generosity and sacrifices of the community as part of the experience. All families (and Youth Leaders) are volunteers and do this without any direct expectations, as an act of service.

### **\*Food**

Even though many community members in KI may eat only one meal a day, guests will be provided with three meals a day and in turn we will feed the community during that week. Snacks are also available at the local stores. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided on site of the activities and supper will be a daily community event at the Outdoor Grounds where an additional 100 residents will eat for free with the guests. Campfires, stories, music, drumming and de-briefing will be part of evening meal experience. Traditional foods and wild game will be prepared for sampling by guests in addition to non-traditional foods available that the guests will be accustomed to.

We can accommodate food restrictions and some allergies with advance notice.

### **\*Transportation**

Unlike other First Nation communities in the territory, KI is fairly spread out between the 'Island' and the 'Mainland'. Both are joined by a small road named 'the causeway'. Road transportation is necessary to travel guests from their host families to activities and the high cost of gas is calculated in the all-inclusive price. There are school buses and vans that will be available during the week as well. Walking for 10-15 minutes between activities for our guests is also a realistic expectation. Transportations for special needs guests is available.



# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## An all-inclusive trip (continued):

### **\*Activities:**

Activities are selected based on the priorities and rationale of the event led by the youth. Based on the reasons why they are inviting guests, activities have been selected to support the youth's themes. Final activities schedule will be provided in May-June. (See below for the draft schedule of activities)

## **Orientation Package for confirmed guests:**

The youth and community of KI will provide teachings about their community, history and culture in the orientation package as well as on-site during the trip. *Productions Cazabon* will also contribute to the orientation package and provide further details and trip-readiness. These will be followed by orientation conference calls (nationally) prior to the trip. Guests can also contact **Productions Cazabon** for any additional questions or special needs. Part of the orientation will also be about reconciliation in Canada.

A detailed list of what to pack and what is available for purchase on-site will be part of the orientation package.

## **Media Release Forms:**

Members of the Press are invited to witness the process. All guests will be asked to sign a media release form as photos and videos may be taken during the trip. *Productions Cazabon* may be filming portions of the trip for the 3rd World Canada Multi-Media Textbook project intended for Secondary Schools and Post Secondary institutions for the purpose of education and raising awareness as well as sharing via social media. Photos and videos gathered would be shared as well as a souvenir with our guests. Filming and media is not yet confirmed for the trip.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## A typical day in KI for guests:

In K.I., all community members and students begin their day at 9:00AM, they break for an hour at noon and finish their work day at 5:00PM. (Students are bused for lunch and are at home from school by 4:30 at the latest). Guests' schedule is intended to be in sync with the rhythm of the community (which will be in holiday mode as school is out for the summer).

**8:30 AM** Depart family for community grounds (Named: 'Homecoming Grounds' or 'field' as it is by the baseball field).

### Breakfast: 9:00 AM

All meals are served at the community grounds for guests and their host families and the extended community. (All meals are served at the outdoor area).

### **Morning Activities:**

**9:00 AM - 12:00:** Activity with guests and community as planned.

### Lunch: 12:00 to 1:00 PM

### **Afternoon Activities:**

**1:00 - 5:00PM** - Afternoon Activity with guests and community as planned.

Transportation home before dinner and at times directly to the Outdoor Grounds site.

### Supper: 6:00 - 6:30 PM

### **Evening Activities:**

Most evening activities will take place at the Outdoor Grounds with community dropping in for social & mingling at the campfire and community teepees for music, stories etc.

**Curfew:** All guests are expected to be at and remain at their host families home by 10:00 PM unless accompanied in the community by their host families.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## \*Week-at-a-glance:

(Detailed activities for the 2016 trip will be included in the Orientation package)

Each day has a theme based on the teachings that the youth want the guests to learn about their community. There will be experiential learning and engagement activities organized around each theme that will take place for a portion of the day. The other half of the day will be open to leisure activities and opt-in activities which guests will pre-select prior to departure, that will be varied and spread throughout the week.

FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES PLEASE SEE HERE 2013 YEAR'S PROGRAM TO GIVE YOU A SENSE OF WHAT MIGHT BE IN YOUR 2016 PROGRAM

## **June 17th (2013):**

### **Theme: Culture Appreciation Day & Opening Ceremony launching the event**

The intention of this day is to share and celebrate the culture of K.I. Participants will visit the school and hear students speak and sing in their Oji-Cree language. They will meet with the school Principal and hear about how culture and tradition are preserved in the education programs. Guests will also have an opportunity to listen to stories translated by elders and participate in traditional activities such as fish smoking. Traditional foods and crafts will be shared throughout the day.

## **June 18th**

### **Theme: 3<sup>rd</sup> World Canada and Realities of K.I Living Conditions**

The intention of this day will be to share with guests the realities of the gaps in living conditions on K.I. The visitors will join the health and leadership team in K.I for a tour of the band office and various housing sites. The visitors will learn about the housing budget of \$364,000 and explore the challenge of working within this budget to deal with the mold, over crowding and poor housing infrastructure. Guests will tour some of the sites from the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Canada documentary including the seniors home. Guests will also be invited into the homes of the school Principal, the chief, the deputy chief and the youth who are part of the organizing team for this event to further a discussion on housing.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## June 19th

### **Theme: Wapekeka Visit**

On this day, there will be an opportunity to visit Wapekeka which is a neighboring community. Guests will participate in various activities set out by this community and share in the diversity and commonalities of various First Nations communities. Guests will travel to Wapekeka by school bus (40 minute drive) or by canoe paddle (half day.)

## June 20th

### **Theme: Connection to the Land and Environmental Stewardship**

The focus of this day will be to connect to the land. The youth will share their land-based skills and commitment to protecting the land. Guests will be invited to visit various archeological and sacred sites to experience the history, beauty and teachings from the land. Medicinal herbs and traditional foods from the land will be shared with guests as well as climate changes and impact on wildlife and traditions.

## June 21st

### **Theme: Youth Day (with KI youth leaders & special guests) & Closing Ceremony:**

This day will be the climax of the journey and a moment to truly celebrate and come together with the youth for National Aboriginal Day. The youth will guide the day with activities, celebrations and particular events to celebrate National Aboriginal Day. The youth will share their vision and hope for the future. We will reflect on the combination of everything we have lived together and re-imagine a future together. This will be a day for dialogue, gift exchanges, appreciation and celebration.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## Optional Activities - available throughout the week:

The youth want to showcase their spiritual and traditional connection to the land and hope that the guests will take the time to enjoy Big Trout Lake, the beaches and the land that surrounds their community. Many of the leisure activities relate to this objective. The notion of play with guests is very important to the youth as expressed with their basic wishes such as: *'I want to jump off our dock and swim and laugh with the guests'...* Leisure, reflection, meal-sharing and play is as important as organized activities. The KI sense of humor is also prevalent throughout and is part of their teachings on coping. There may be some surprise activities intended to make us laugh. The schedule operates with the flexibility for the below:

## Half-day options to sign up for:

- \* **Time off to spend solo in a chosen area of the community.** These solitary reflections blocks can be accommodated in advance at certain drop-off points or be organized with the host family. We encourage guests to take time to reflect and capture what they are experiencing. As well, for those needing to pray or practice religious customs, we encourage you to make use of these blocks of solo time. Appropriate locations can be found to accommodate needs. For the security of the community, all guests' whereabouts need to be accounted for with contact person available for pick-up and drop-off.
- \* **One on one time with our de-briefing team to work through the experiences lived throughout the week.** There will be time in the evenings for de-briefing in circle groups with community, youth and guests however, each guest can request extra time with de-briefing team for one on one.
- \* **Traditional fish nets setting and fishing with Chief Donny Morris near his home.** Chief Morris has selected his 'favorite' experience to share with guests: fishing off his dock. He wishes to share his love of his traditions, his community and their connection to the lake which dates back 10,000 years from archeological findings. As a steward of the land he knows that to fish off his dock and eat his catch is a basic experience that cannot be duplicated in other bodies of water due to pollution. (for example the Ottawa Canal or the Toronto docks). *'I want them to understand why our waterways need to be protected which is one of our roles here in KI: to protect the water and the land, for all of us'*.
- \* **Infrastructure visits of your choice:** With advance notice, we can organize visits with the infrastructure of your choice (the location & their team) which may relate to the guest's professions or area of interest. (education, the band office, the health office, OPP, legal team, drug treatment centre, climate change and environment team, churches, radio and TV, etc.)
- \* **Outdoor leisure activities:** Such as: beach visit & swimming (the water will still be very cold), boat fishing, traditional cooking with elders, visit to a small island nearby etc. Treks in the forest with community members for animal tracking and learning of traditional medicinal herb will be available for all guests in small groups.
- \* **Games with youth:** The hockey game between Kingston and KI during the November tour was the highlight of the KI youth in terms of bridge-building between two nations. We will replicate this in KI. The arena and the youth centre will be the primary locations for organized games and play. The Right to Play coordinator will assist in planning games and activities between youth, community and guests.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## Additional Info:

### Community Infrastructure:

#### - Health

There is a full-time nursing station in KI ready to welcome guests for minor emergencies or health needs. As well, a doctor visits the community on a weekly basis. There is no pharmacy and guests are asked to bring any necessary prescription or medication. (*More info on this in the Orientation package.*)

#### - Water Quality

Unlike many First Nations communities in Canada, KI has running water and sewage systems. However the quality of the tap water for drinking purposes may, at times be a concern. Following a meeting with the KI health team, it was decided that each guest would bring as a gift to their host family: a tap water filtration system (the kind that can be purchased in most retail stores). This way, guests will have better water quality as well as the host families. (*More info on this in the Orientation package.*)

#### - Security

\* The community has a permanent OPP detachment on-site, at all times. OPP will work with the youth and the leadership in participating and welcoming guests in their community.

\* Please note that as much as guests may have concerns and questions around the security of staying in a remote reserve, community members in KI also have similar concerns in having strangers close to their children and homes. Questions around security and safety for this event goes both ways.

#### - Communication Access

There is a land line in most homes and buildings in KI and guests are asked to bring a calling card if making long distance calls. Some homes and buildings have wireless internet access that guests can use however it is not high speed internet or as reliable as in most urban centres. Cell phone communication is unreliable and at times inaccessible. The more guests have similar expectations than in a 3rd World country, the better their experience will be.

# The Youth in K.I. invite Canadians...

## Projected outcome of this event:

The intention of this trip is to build healing relationships between Canadians and Indigenous people. These relationships are the starting place for dialogue and discussion on action steps that may be inspired by the trip for the community, the guests and those tuning in as witnesses online. Future plans for the youth, the community and the Canadian visitors may evolve.

**A word of caution to our guests:** You will be faced with stark social injustices and a new lens on our collective history and future as a country which may trigger all kinds of new thoughts and emotions. In an attempt to come to terms with these, some may seek relief by turning to a 'project' or kick-start an idea to ease the injustices and strong urges *'to do something!'* We caution guests to not 'jump to action first'. Action and transforming these new truths into our daily lives and our own communities back home (or projects in KI but led by KI - and not by outsiders) may evolve as a natural progression of the journey. Any project ought to be led by Indigenous people and communities. If there are any 'projects' to come from the trip: it must be led by the community of KI. The community is inviting you as guests into their home: not to come up with bright new ideas and solutions **for** them but to **listen and believe in their own projects**, hopes and dreams and capacity to lead their own communities. (see section on Reconciliation)

It is clear to the youth that this is an 'expectation-free' event in terms of its after-life. There are opportunities to continue to engage with KI however the youth want Canadians to attend 'just because' and to build fond memories of their home. They want this to be 'a trip of a lifetime' for you that you experience with them, (not 'a program or project' that you do to them).