



MEDIA RELEASE - Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI), Ontario
June 25, 2015

page 1 of 2

THE YOUTH OF REMOTE KITCHENUHMAYKOOSIB INNINUWUG INVITE ORDINARY CANADIANS ON AN ALL-INCLUSIVE RECONCILIATION TRIP: TO LIVE IN THEIR HOMES, SHARE THEIR LIVES AND EXPLORE RECONCILIATION WITH THEIR COMMUNITY.

***First Nation Youth invite 25 Canadians 'home' on July 17 - 23, 2015.
There are 10 seats available on the trip***

For 25 Canadians the first step on a journey to reconciliation will be as concrete as it gets this summer: one week on all inclusive-trip in a remote 3rd world reserve where they will live in over-crowded family homes and learn directly from the community.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report highlighted 94 recommendations to repair the relationship between Canadians and Indigenous People and redress the harm of the Indian Residential School legacy. The Commission's chair Justice Murray Sinclair sent a clear message: "everything we do going forward should be based on the question of how we achieve reconciliation".

This is no news to the young people of the fly-in reserve of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Ontario who are preparing to host their third annual "**Reconciliation Trip**". Each year, the youth lead their community in welcoming 25 ordinary Canadians to live in their family's home, share their lives and explore themes of reconciliation deep in the boreal forest.

The call for reconciliation last year was heard as far as **Buckingham Palace** where it inspired the Countess of Wessex to support the youth and shine a bright light on their reconciliation project. For the first time, a member of the Royal Family experienced an overnight trip in a remote reserve inviting along Premier Wynn, Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell and eight women leaders. In spite of dignitaries who have attended past trips, the youth continue to reach out to ordinary Canadians even if the price tag is a hurdle for many. In a community where a carton of eggs costs \$16.00 and flights off reserve are more expensive than a ticket to Europe from southern Ontario, the financial commitment Canadians make to travel is deeply appreciated. The cost for the all-inclusive trip is \$3,200.

The event is not your typical all-inclusive summer vacation. Previous guests have called it their most unusual vacation but also 'most meaningful trip of my life' and others: 'life-changing and heart-warming'.

'We want them to see our living conditions and the hope we still have,' - Justin Beardy, Youth Leader

By sharing in the daily life of the reserve, guests will experience the connection to the land, the community spirit, their sense of humour and the proud way of life that defines Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. The youth will also show their own community that they can lead the way and inspire hope and change for the future generations.

*Most Canadians know more about global issues and third world living conditions on far away continents than those plaguing First Nations communities in their own backyard. Lack of awareness fosters racism and perpetuates Canada's ongoing social injustices which deepens the divide between Canadians and Indigenous people. Youth from the remote community of **Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI)** want to change that: one Canadian and their circle of influence, at a time.*

Priority will be given to those traveling with children.

Those interested in joining the trip can sign up at: www.thirdworldcanada.ca

“This event means a lot to me because I have hope for the future of our children; that they will grow up knowing that the old typical stereotypes of us Aboriginals will change in the future: if we do our part in changing our home we call Canada. By extending our friendship to Canadians, that is a start in getting there. We gotta start somewhere.”

Leona Matthews , Youth Leader

Our Sponsors:

This project is made possible thanks to the generous contribution of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Josh Hellyer, Laidlaw Foundation, First Nations University of Canada, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Wasaya Airways.

CONTACTS & PAST MEDIA:

Media contact (available for interviews) in KI, Ontario:

* Youth Leader: Leona Matthews leonamathews_kievent@hotmail.com

Youth Leader: Justin Beardy: kistodge@yahoo.ca

Youth quotes, photos and 3rd World Canada film (filmed in K.I.) available. Interviews with previous guests available upon request.

3rd World Canada filmmaker and event partner, Andrée Cazabon - Productions Cazabon

andree@productionscazabon.com

cell. 416-945-9632

Follow us on: 3rd World Canada Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/3rdWorldCanada>

Watch the film trailer: <http://www.thirdworldcanada.ca/>

Check out coverage of the reconciliation trips:

[Toronto Star article here](#)

[Film made in K.I. 3rd World Canada link here:](#)

[Globe & Mail article by Ruth Ann Onley here:](#)

[CBC News here:](#)

The Royal Visit trip in response to the reconciliation trips:

[National Post article here](#)

[Editorial by Premier Wynn - Toronto Sun here:](#)



Cazabon
productions



Laidlaw
FOUNDATION