

# Decolonizing Pledge

In a context in which Canadian society owes its prosperity to colonization, and Indigenous nations experience ongoing violence, land theft, racism, and genocide, it is important to build just and peaceful relationships with the land as well as between Indigenous and settler communities. I pledge to do my part to begin my own process of decolonization through the following actions:

- I will discover upon whose territory I reside
- I will learn about Treaty 7, including the history of treaty-making in the Bow Valley
- I will attend at least one event organized by Indigenous people in or around the Bow Valley
- I will read the Truth & Reconciliation reports, beginning with the executive summary
- I will read the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- I will join the call for justice for the murdered and missing Aboriginal women and children
- I will read books and articles by Indigenous authors, including local Indigenous authors
- I will listen to Indigenous podcasts and radio programs
- I will watch documentaries, movies, or television shows created and directed by Indigenous people
- I will learn about the so-called "Sixties Scoop"
- I will educate myself about the residential school system and its impact
- I will learn the difference between a hereditary and an elected Chief
- I will volunteer at Indigenous events
- I will donate to Indigenous organizations
- I will educate myself about the different types of treaties and why extinguishment of Aboriginal rights and title is unacceptable
- I will learn what nation-to-nation relationships might look like within the territory I live on
- I will educate myself about the ways in which colonialism is not a thing of the past but very much present and pervasive today
- I will follow at least 10 Indigenous organizers/activists/influencers on social media
- I will learn how to say a few words in a local Indigenous language
- I will learn how environmental racism is practiced in Canada against Indigenous communities, for instance in Grassy Narrows First Nation territory
- I will learn about the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
- I am willing to be uncomfortable, since what a truly just and decolonized Canada will look like is not yet known

Adapted by Lauren Kepkiewicz for the Bow Valley Food Alliance from the BCFSN Decolonizing Pledge prepared by Abra Brynne, Director of Engagement & Policy for the BCFSN Annual Gathering, July 2016