

TRC “Virtual Workshop” Assignment (8 Credits)

What I Learned: Timeline – A few things stood out regarding the chronology of important events...residential schools were started before the Dominion of Canada came into existence (1867), in 1961 “Indians” were granted the right to vote, 1969’s White Paper was approved by the Liberal Pierre Trudeau, 1982’s Constitution Act finally recognized and affirmed Indigenous Rights, 1996 saw the beginning of class action lawsuits filed against governments and churches and in 2005 this case was formally presented. Spiritual Abuse – A number of survivors said that while not all attendees of residential school were physically or sexually abused, all were spiritually abused. This was the worst and is still carried by survivors. To Be An Ally – In light of being a Christian, what does this mean? We are called to be spiritual reconcilers but there are also issues of justice important to Indigenous believers. The majority church is ignorant and does not have the attention span to engage these issues (note how little views some of the videos on the TRC site have). It Takes Effort – Churches and government did not come forward to right the wrongs of the Indian Act and residential school. This came from elders and survivors. We need to be purposeful.

Staff & Corporate Suggestions for Points 58-61: Pope Apologizing – It is tempting to pass this one off since I am not Catholic. However, I believe in the importance of this and can educate others as to why that is so. Justin Trudeau recently asked the Pope to do this but nothing has happened yet. Churches Develop Ongoing Education – This is important. I am challenging my church to engage, build relationships and become better educated around Indigenous culture. NAIM is doing a better job of this with MDP, SMI and Pro D training for its short and long-term staff. Colonization is not an easy topic and easily dismissed and it requires various approaches. Respecting Aboriginal Spirituality – On the face of it, this one seems the trickiest as Christians. However, what if it was seen as a willingness to learn and respect Indigenous spirituality? Also, to learn from Indigenous Christians and theologians who are contextualizing/decolonizing how their faith is practiced and lived? This is doable. For example, an upcoming September 30 all day conference at Regent College in Vancouver presents this opportunity for NAIM staff, Board and friends. Establish Permanent Funding – In its own way, staff and NAIM do this at various levels...learning and teaching language, partnering with communities for reconciliation and education, etc.

Extreme Ownership – How US Navy SEALs Lead and Win by Jocko Willink & Leif Babin 282 pages. (5 Credits) – *Extreme Ownership* is written by two former Navy SEALs, Jocko Willink and Leif Babin, who now head a leadership training company called Echelon Front. This is an excellent book for any type of leader and is structured in a very basic and clear way. The authors convey one main point per

chapter by sharing a story from their battlefield experiences, then highlighting the main principle of that story, and finally giving a concrete example of how this principle applies in business settings. Their main points can be summarized as follows:

- The leader is always responsible. (This is what they call "extreme ownership." Basically, leaders must always "own" the mistakes and shortcomings of their teams.)
- Everyone on the team must believe in the mission.
- Work with other teams to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Keep plans simple, clear, and concise.
- Check your ego.
- Figure out your priorities, and then act on them one at a time.
- Clarify your mission (i.e., your plan).
- Engage with your higher-ups; keep them in the loop--especially when they frustrate you.
- Act decisively, even when things are chaotic.
- The last chapter is a summary of the seemingly contradictory qualities of a leader.

hən̓q̓əm̓iṇ̓əṇ̓ Language Class (5 credits) – I have taken this class for about the last year and a half. It takes place on the Kwantlen First Nation in Fort Langley and it has been great on many levels. The class runs Monday nights (except July and August) for two hours and is led by cultural educator, Fern Gabriel. Kwantlen is a progressive community with involvements in business, education and culture. A few of us from the fellowship on the reserve attend this class and it has been beneficial all around.