

# Truth, Reconciliation & Equity: *They Matter to Us!*

KAIROS CAMPAIGN 2011-12

Truth, Reconciliation, Equity (and Google) – They Matter to US!

*Setting:* Any room in a family house

*Characters:* Parent 1  
Parent 2  
Younger Sibling  
Older Sibling

*NOTE:* All characters are nameless and genderless. The actors are free to take on whatever gender they want and pick their own name. Feel free to be creative with your staging ideas! The script is merely a foundation in which to build upon.

*Both children on their phones texting, searching the web, on a chat room or something of the sort. They are always trying to one up one another*

*The setting could be getting dinner ready, during dinner, cleaning –up after dinner, reading magazines/ newspaper, etc.*

**Parent 1:** You know, you two shouldn't spend all your time on those things. Why don't you go out and explore the world, read something, get some fresh air . . . anything but staring at those screens like a couple of zombies all day!

*Siblings say nothing but give a "stop nagging me" look to parents.*

**Younger Sibling:** Well, at least I don't spend as much time on online as him/her.  
*(indicates Older Sibling)*

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**Older Sibling:** That's because I'm doing homework so that I can do well in school and get into a good college. I don't waste my time chatting with other wannabe Che Guevara kids (*pronounces it wrong: Gee-Vara*).

**Younger Sibling:** I'm not a kid! I'm only 1 and 3/4 years younger than you. And it's Guevara not Gee-Vara.

**Parent 1:** Please! Can we have one night without the bickering?

**Parent 2:** You both waste a lot time on your gadgets. Can't you find anything better to do with your time?

**Parent 1:** (*Teasingly*) Yeah, maybe you could spend a little **quality time** together. Maybe you could even try getting along.

*Children say nothing but give each other a snarky look.*

**Parent 2:** What are you doing anyway?

**Older Sibling:** Homework. (*Turns to Younger Sibling and says in a snarky voice*) What are you doing? Updating your status for the ninth time today?? Tweeting Snooki?

**Younger Sibling:** Whatever. I'm catching up on my on my youth justice feed. 'Cause unlike you I care about more than just grades . . .

**Parent 1:** Oh, cut it out guys. Stop being so competitive.

**Older Sibling:** I do too care about the world. In fact my big project for Mrs. Duncan's class is going to be all about Canada and children's rights at the United Nations, and how this affects First Nations kids in our own backyard.

**Younger Sibling:** Don't you mean how it **doesn't** affect First Nations children?

**Parent 2:** What do you mean . . . doesn't affect?

**Older Sibling:** Well, it's just that things are still pretty crummy for a lot of kids here. You know, schools on reserves don't get as much money as our school does. And sometimes they don't even have safe water or are freezing or there's mold everywhere. A lot of First Nations kids even have to move really far away just to find somewhere to finish up high school.

**Younger Sibling:** It's true! Kelly posted a link on Facebook all about this First Nations school in Manitoba was wrecked in the floods this spring, and they had to wait for, like, months to get even a temporary set up. But when a school in Winnipeg burned down, it was only a few days before things were underway again . . . it's so frustrating!

*(To Older Sibling)* I learned that chatting with the other wannabe Che Guevera kids.

**Older Sibling:** *(Sarcastically)* Good for you. *(to Parents 1 and 2)* Seriously though, wouldn't you miss me if I got shipped off to school?

**Parent 1:** Don't be silly. We wouldn't let that happen . . .

**Older Sibling:** But then how would we go to school? It's either growing up at home *or* finishing high school. You can't have both . . . soooooo not fair.

**Parent 1:** Well . . . I don't know . . . I . . . I don't have an answer to that.

**Younger Sibling:** I think the point is that you'd likely never be asked to make that choice. So why do Indigenous parents have to make that choice?

**Older Sibling:** Or have it made for them!

*Pause*

**Parent 2:** I guess we never really thought about it that way.

**Older Sibling:** So . . . like, 20 years after signing the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child why is everything still such a mess? Why are there these big gaps between us and First Nations kids?

**Younger Sibling:** Hey, check out the teacher's pet challenging the system!

**Older Sibling:** Whatever . . . *(mumbles)* at least I don't spend all my time on Twitter the night before I'm going to get my tail kicked in a math test.

**Parent 1:** What?

**Parent 2:** Huh?

**Younger Sibling:** Nothing! (*shoots Older Sibling a shush up look*) So what were you saying about . . . the . . . um . . . U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child . . .

**Parent 2:** Well, in all fairness, the government **has** taken some steps forward. It's not like people aren't trying.

**Parent 1:** It endorsed the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Parent 2:** And the Prime Minister apologized for the Residential Schools and all the bad stuff that went with it . . . like trying to "kill the Indian in the child" and end Indigenous culture in Canada.

*Siblings look at each other*

**Older Sibling:** Yeah . . . umm . . . sure but it doesn't end there and that didn't fix everything.

**Younger Sibling:** It's kinda like what you always tell us about saying sorry.

**Parent 2:** Yup! . . . First you have to feel sorry . . .

**Parent 1:** Then you say sorry.

**Younger Sibling:** Then you do something to show that you are sorry! If you're really sorry, you shouldn't have to say sorry twice!

**Older Sibling:** It's like what the Prime Minister said when he was saying sorry: "There is no place in Canada for the attitudes that inspired the Indian residential schools system to ever again prevail"

Well, unless we really *do* something . . . and do it right now, we're not really sorry.

**Parent 2:** They always say, "Actions speak louder than words."

*(Parents smile at one another)*

**Parent 1:** So, then, what's next? What do you think we should do?

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- Younger Sibling:** I actually heard about this thing that KAIROS is doing, which I thought was kinda neat. They want everyone to take a picture of themselves holding a sign that says “Truth, Reconciliation & Equity- They Matter to Us!”
- Parent 2:** What does that mean?
- Older Sibling:** On their website here it says it’s part of the current campaign “Truth, Reconciliation & Equity – They Matter to Us!” . . . they want Canadians to “hear and tell the truth, promise reconciliation, and end inequities of the present.” See . . . it says all this right here. *(shows parents screen)*
- Parent 1:** So what does a picture with a sign have to do with this?
- Younger Sibling:** *(Reading)* Well, it says that it’s “To help KAIROS “create a huge public witness for an equitable Canada.” It “demonstrates your commitment to being part of a better future, part of a different picture.” I guess it’s one way that we can actually start to do something . . . to show that we really are sorry.
- Parent 1:** We could do that tonight!
- Older Sibling:** Better than being a zombie in front of a screen, right?
- Parent 2:** Very true! *(Pause)* How did you two get to be so smart?
- Older Sibling:** We had good parents . . .
- Younger Sibling:** And Google of course . . .

**End.**