**Reconciliation Prayer**

Today we acknowledge the pain and shame of our history. The cruelty, distress and suffering inflicted on our indigenous peoples through racist and ill-conceived practises of government and the Church and we ask your forgiveness.  
We confess that acts of injustice are not a thing of the past but continue today. Communities of Aboriginal and Inlander peoples have had yet another government initiative enforced on them.  
While this is meant to be an initiative to bridge the gap between us, indigenous leaders tell us this is just another wedge that separates and disempowers those already on the edges of power.  
Yet again we are failing to make things right.  
We are sorry.  
  
God of love, you are the creator of this land and all things.  
Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history   
and insight into the pitfalls of our current practise,  
Reveal to us a wisdom we have yet to know and a vision of what can be  
so that we may build a better future for our nation.  
  
God of reconciliation,  
You gave your son Jesus to reconcile the world to you.  
We pray for your strength and grace to seek forgiveness and to forgive,  
to open our hearts to accept and love one another  
as you forgive and accept and love us.  
  
We thank you for our indigenous people,  
For the beauty of their culture  
For their deep wisdom and knowledge,  
held within their ceremonies, stories, song and art.   
We celebrate their survival  
and give thanks for all we learn from them.  
  
Teach us to respect all cultures.  
Teach us to care for the land and waters.  
Help us to justly share the resources of this land.  
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change  
to improve the quality of life  
for all groups in our communities that stand in need.  
  
Help our young people to find true dignity  
and self-esteem by your Spirit.   
  
May your power and love be the foundations  
on which we build our families,  
our communities and our nation.  
  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
  
*Based on a prayer by the Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group, March 1997.  
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