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February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **Luther College offers community program to work towards reconciliation: Project of Heart**

Forty people from across the Regina area are participating in a series of workshops in a unique program called Project of Heart at Luther College at the University of Regina.

Project of Heart commemorates the lives of children who attended residential schools, connects this history to ongoing systemic racism, and affects change towards the goal of reconciliation through activist work in the community. The program is an inquiry-based, hands-on, collaborative, intergenerational, artistic journey of seeking truth about the history of residential schools in Canada. In particular, the project studies the legacy and impacts of the Regina Indian Industrial School.

Carol Bell is one of the participants in this current session. "I can learn about and research Truth and Reconciliation and Residential Schools on the internet and through the library but knowing and acting on that knowledge are two different things. Project of Heart offers to deepen understanding, connect us and explore ways to advocate for what is right and just in our communities, Saskatchewan and Canada."

Thanks to our sponsor, Conexus Credit Union (Conexus), there is no cost for participants to attend.

"Conexus is focused on learning and understanding how we can become stronger allies and contribute to positive change across Saskatchewan and the communities we serve," said Nicole Westerlund, Vice President of Member and Community Engagement at Conexus. "As part of our ongoing response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, we are committed to providing reparation through supporting and participating in enriched education and training programs like Project of Heart, providing impactful community investments towards initiatives that advance truth and reconciliation and establishing long-lasting partnerships with the Indigenous community."

Project of Heart addresses the history of residential schools while providing a safe space and programmatic structure to engage, to take positive action, and to collectively identify ways to build towards a better future.

Luther College has offered Project of Heart since 2016, and encourages participation from faculty, staff, students, and community members as one of our institution's responses to the Truth and Reconciliation's 94 Calls to Action. To date, over 200 people have participated in Project of Heart at Luther College.

## **About Luther College**

Luther College, Regina operates a historical independent high school accredited by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and a post-secondary campus federated with the University of Regina. Our vision is to make transformative change for a more grace-filled, just, and joyful world.

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## **About Conexus Credit Union**

Conexus is a forward-thinking, innovative credit union committed to improving the financial well-being of our members and communities. We are one of Saskatchewan's largest credit unions and being connected to our communities across the province is a commitment we have upheld for the last 80+ years. Working alongside our community investment partners enables us to deliver our purpose and in the last five years, we've invested over \$9.5 million back into our communities across Saskatchewan. To learn more, visit [Conexus.ca](http://Conexus.ca)

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