

**What Many of Us Were Not Taught:  
Pre-European Contact  
Doctrine of Discovery & Assimilation  
Understanding Land & Treaty**

***Discussion Questions***

1. What are some practical doorways towards further reconciliation?
2. Are 500 year old documents from Roman Catholic popes relevant today? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #49 says, in part: *“We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.”* In 2016, Mennonite Church Assembly in Saskatoon passed the following recommendation:

*I. That Mennonite Church Canada repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery as it is fundamentally opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and our understanding of the inherent dignity and rights that individuals and peoples have received from God.*

*II. That a working group be formed by representatives of Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches to begin by reviewing the church related recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, make the appropriate study material available to congregations, and make further periodic recommendations to the General Board/Area Church Boards on steps along the path of reconciliation.*

Did you know this motion had been adopted? What do you think of it?  
How does this impact our life at Waterloo North?

4. In June 2015, after the Truth and Reconciliation final report was made public, the Prime Minister denied in parliament that the Residential school system was “cultural genocide”. He said it was not “cultural genocide, it was “forced assimilation”. Discuss the distinction being made. Do you agree?
5. Is the Canadian assimilation “project” still going on? Discuss your “yes or no” response and implications for how you will interact with Indigenous people living in our Region.
6. What about this discussion (with current Wet'suwet'en land claims , blockades, etc.) makes you uncomfortable?  
*Robin DiAngelo, who we will meet next week says “The key to moving forward is what we do with our discomfort. We can use it as a **door out**—blame the messenger and disregard the message. Or we can use it as a door-in by asking, **Why does this unsettle me?**”*