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MEDIA ADVISORY

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation Releases New Publication — "Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity. C"

MARCH 21, 2011 (OTTAWA) – Today, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation releases the third and final volume in a series dedicated to reconciliation. *Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity* presents essays by Canadians outside the traditional settler communities of English and French. Aboriginal Healing Foundation President, Georges Erasmus, expresses his hope that "this broad, inclusive approach will draw Canadians of many backgrounds and circumstance into the current reconciliation discussion — on the understanding that all Canadians are Treaty people, with an important place in this dialogue."

On June 11, 2008, the Prime Minister of Canada issued a formal apology for the Federal Government's role in the Indian Residential School System. As part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has been established to undertake a nation-wide, five-year truth-telling and reconciliation process. To complement and support this work, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation has released two previous volumes on reconciliation, From Truth to Reconciliation: Transforming the Legacy of Residential Schools (in 2008) and Response, Responsibility and Renewal: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Journey (in 2009). These and other publications are available free of charge from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity will be formally launched in Sioux Lookout as part of the annual Sioux Lookout Race Relations Week. The public is invited to attend this event, which takes place at 7 pm at the Sunset Suites in Sioux Lookout. Beginning April 5, there will be a series of local book launches throughout Canada. Details will be posted on the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's website – www.ahf.ca. With the completion of this third and final volume, a limited edition boxed format of the series will be available.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation is a not-for-profit, Aboriginal managed national funding agency which encourages and supports community-based healing efforts addressing the intergenerational legacy of physical and sexual abuse in Canada's Indian Residential School System.

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For more information: Wayne K. Spear, Communications, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, 613-237-4441 extension 237, or toll-free 1-888-725-8886.

Our mission is to provide resources which will promote reconciliation and encourage and support Aboriginal people and their communities in building and reinforcing sustainable healing processes that address the legacy of physical, sexual, mental, cultural, and spiritual abuses in the residential school system, including intergenerational impacts.