

## Best Practices and Resources for Ensuring a Culturally Safe and Respectful Screening of Films with Sensitive Content

Consideration for teachers

Some of the films, resources and programming opportunities REEL CANADA provides include content that acknowledges difficult realities about Canadian history and society, including depictions and descriptions of racism, colonialism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression.

We hope you will keep the following in mind when screening films or participating in any of our programmes:

- Please approach post-screening discussions with sensitivity, and from a trauma-centred and decolonial perspective, prioritizing the needs of any viewers who may have personal experience with trauma, racism and other forms of marginalisation, but without putting the burden on trauma survivors to make themselves known, or to speak on behalf of their communities.
- Let your students know they have the right to opt out of the screening, the livestream or class discussion/activities if they feel the subject matter is triggering. Make arrangements for those students to participate in alternative activities so that they do not feel punished for opting out.
- It is important to ensure a safe viewing experience for students, some of whom may be personally affected by experiences of racism or other sensitive subjects discussed in the films and livestreams. Any counselling services normally provided by your school should be made available, if required. Whenever possible, offer culturally competent counselling and supports.
- Ensure that students who are learning remotely are able to participate in meaningful ways, with remote supports available when necessary.
- Before screening the film(s), make sure your students know that these resources are available to them, and share the appropriate handout for your grade level(s):
  - [Student Guidelines for Difficult Conversations \(Grades 4-8\)](#)
  - [Student Guidelines for Difficult Conversations \(9-12\)](#)

Please make use of the external public support resources linked in these documents, as needed.

- Because viewing the film may lead to disclosures by youth in your classroom or group, it may be prudent to familiarize yourself with the mandatory and legal steps within your province, organization or school regarding your **duty to report**.
- In the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people across Canada, consider familiarizing yourself with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) guiding

principles, Pp. 15-17, TRC Final Report, Volume 6. Numbers 3 and 6 are particularly relevant for students:

- 3. Reconciliation is a process of healing relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
- 6. All Canadians, as Treaty People, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.