

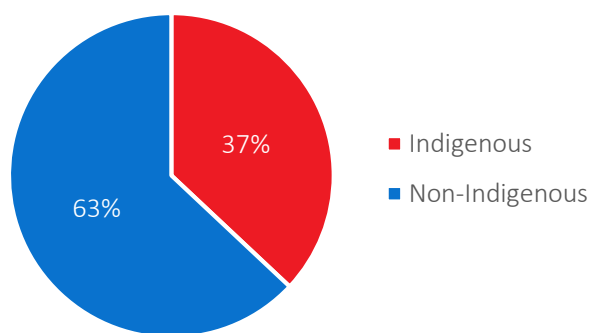
Rock Your Roots (RYR) Walk for Reconciliation Survey Report

On June 21st, 2017, approximately 4,000 individuals from Saskatoon celebrated reconciliation on National Aboriginal Day by rocking their roots (wearing their own cultural symbols). To understand public ideas about reconciliation, we surveyed 126 people who attended the walk.

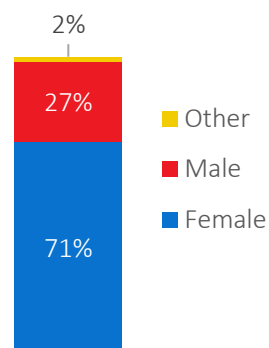
Demographics

Total of 126 participants | Participants were 63% non-Indigenous and 37% Indigenous | 70% female | Mostly worked in education, administration, and health care | young-middle aged adults (19-60)

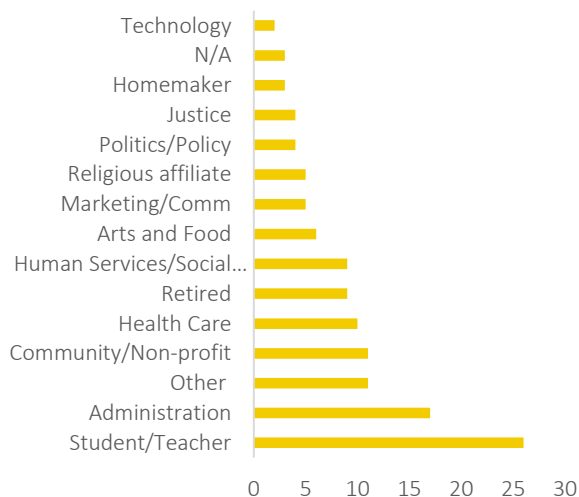
Ethnocultural Identity*



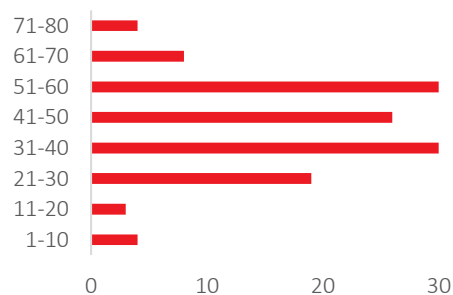
Sex



Profession



Age



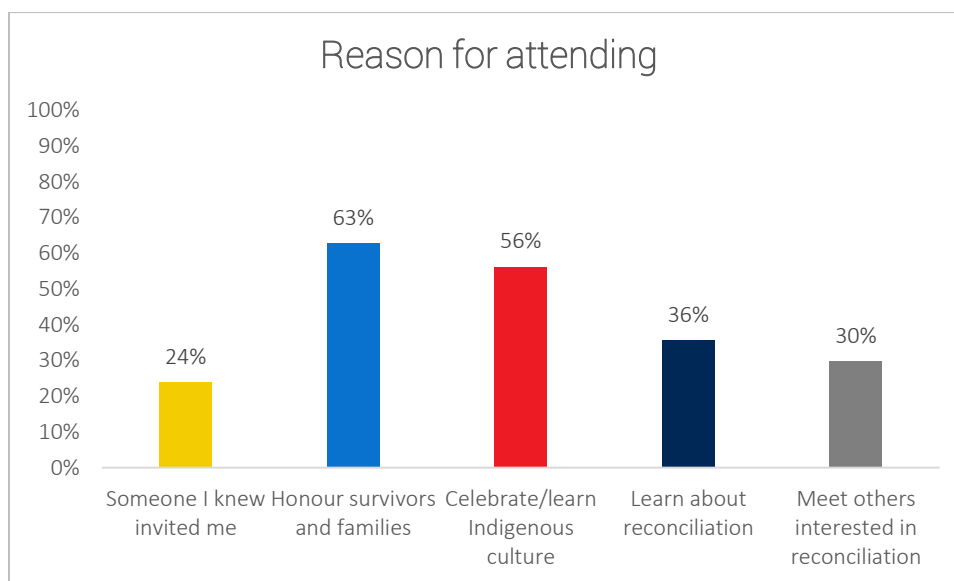
* Participants in the non-Indigenous group identified primarily as White/Caucasian/Canadian, with a minority identifying as European, Asian, and African. Participants in the Indigenous group identified primarily as First Nations, Métis, or Aboriginal.



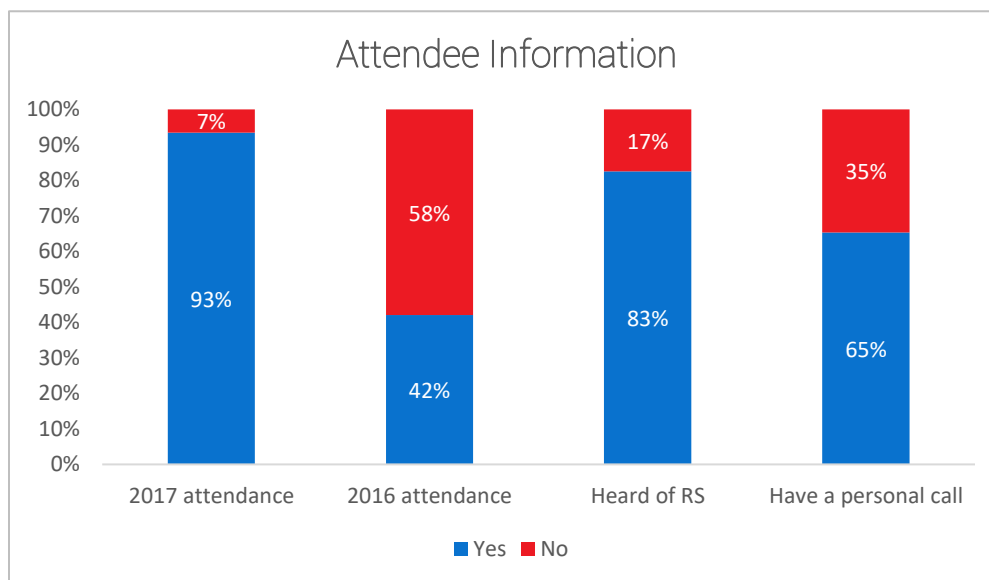
Questions about the walk

Attendance last year, knowledge of Reconciliation Saskatoon, Personal Call to Action, Reason for Attending

- The majority of participants attended because they wanted to **honour survivors and their families**
- Most **did not attend** last year, and over half had heard of **Reconciliation Saskatoon** and had a **personal Call to Action** about reconciliation



Participants were able to select more than one option

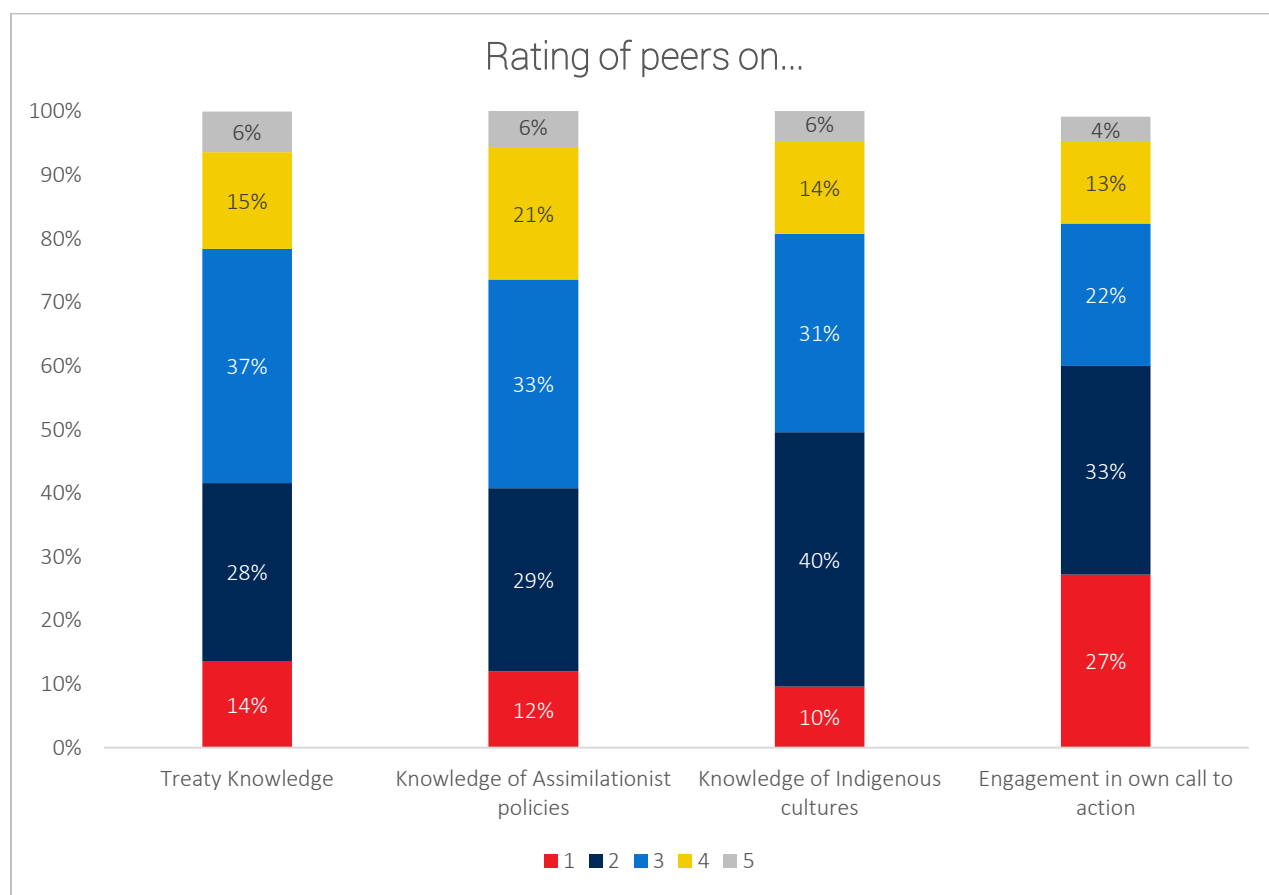


Peer knowledge

How much do your peers know about treaties, assimilative policies, and Indigenous culture? How engaged are your peers in finding their own Call to Action?

- Overall, participants' peers didn't seem to know a whole lot about treaties, assimilative policies, Indigenous culture, or be engaged in their own personal call to action. The average score among all four of these questions was 2.63 on the scale of 1 (not very much) to 5 (quite a lot), with the bar chart below indicating that participants thought, in general, their peers knew not very much or some about the topics asked. Overall, it would appear that our participants view their peers as having **not very much knowledge around components of shared history, and were not very engaged in finding their own call to action.**

"I think we need more efforts geared toward youth in our high schools. While our education system claims to be teaching about treaties relationships and Indigenous history, in reality this is not a big focus. There is very little focus in our schools on improving relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people." (Indigenous woman)



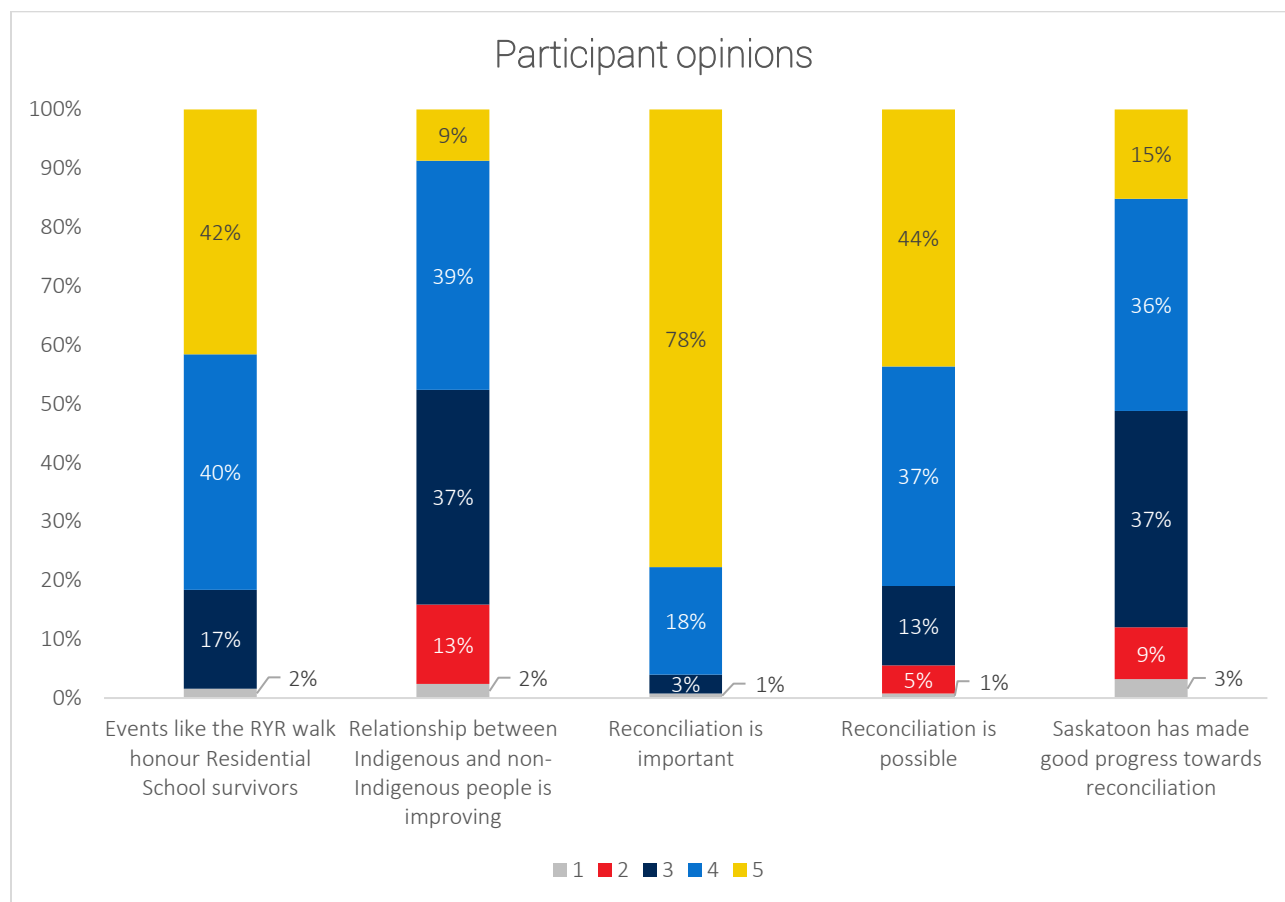
Participant opinion

How much do you agree... That events like RYR honour survivors and their families? That the relationships between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples in Canada is improving? That reconciliation is important and possible? That Saskatoon has made good progress?

- Overall, participants agreed or strongly agreed that events like RYR honour survivors and their families, that the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is improving, that reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is important and possible, and that Saskatoon has made good progress with their reconciliation efforts. These statements were measured on a scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). These results indicate that the attendees at the Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation are **optimistic about a reconciled future**.

“Keep doing what you’re doing - so very impressed with how Saskatoon has changed in the last decade!” (Indigenous woman)

“Continue to invite the school boards. It is important for children all across Saskatoon to participate in these events.” (Non-Indigenous man)



Open ended question

What can be done to encourage more people to be involved with Reconciliation activities?

88 of the 126 participants answered the open ended question: “What can be done to encourage more people to be involved with Reconciliation activities?”

The most common comments circled around **awareness and education**. Participants indicated that education and awareness activities needed to have a further reach – reaching seniors, youth, students, employers, communities, employees, of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous descent. Related to this was the concept that **more engagement** was needed – more businesses, politicians, faith groups, and non-profits should be engaged. Some participants indicated that this engagement would come from an open invitation to all members (not only Indigenous individuals), and many agreed in some way or another that the **spaces needed to be safe** – this included safety for the uneducated or misinformed who are trying to learn about reconciliation, and those who may feel ancestral guilt around colonization. Also important was the theme of **coming together** – people working in solidarity towards a common goal, with a diverse group of community members. Some participants **praised** the walk as it was, but encouraged us to do more, and to have even **more events** focused on reconciliation to increase engagement and awareness on the topic. Lastly, several participants talked about the need for **more publicity**, including a greater mainstream media and social media presence.



“Have [reconciliation] at all events happening in Saskatoon.” (Indigenous man)