

"It begins with a vision of reconciliation and measuring all that we do against whether it will allow us to meet that vision."

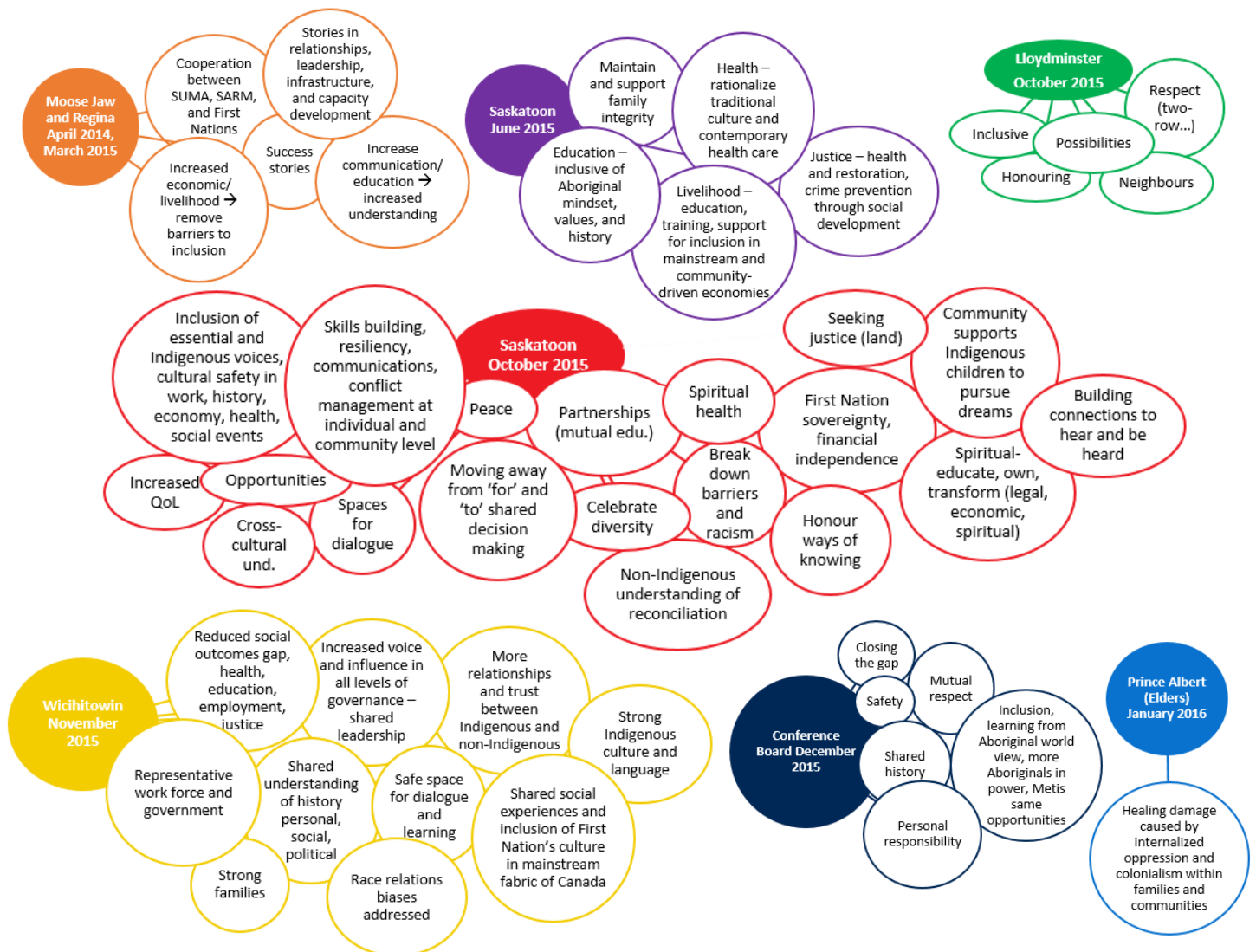
– Justice Murray Sinclair

The OTC and its partners have developed a draft vision of reconciliation – based on the input of roughly 380 Saskatchewan leaders from over 70 organizations, whom we met with in eight different gatherings held in five different communities from April 2014 to January 2016. Each of these gatherings asked participants to imagine and describe a successfully reconciled Saskatchewan. The people involved came from many regions of the province and from all walks of life: First Nation, Métis, non-Indigenous – newcomers and oldcomers, Elders, business, government, community, and civil society.

This visioning process was and is meant to initiate reflection and discussion, to ask Saskatchewan citizens to dream of a better future, and to bring all Treaty Peoples together around a common vision for the future. If we can all agree on the society we want to build, each of us can contribute in our own ways to making that dream a reality.

Constructing a Vision for Reconciliation in Saskatchewan:

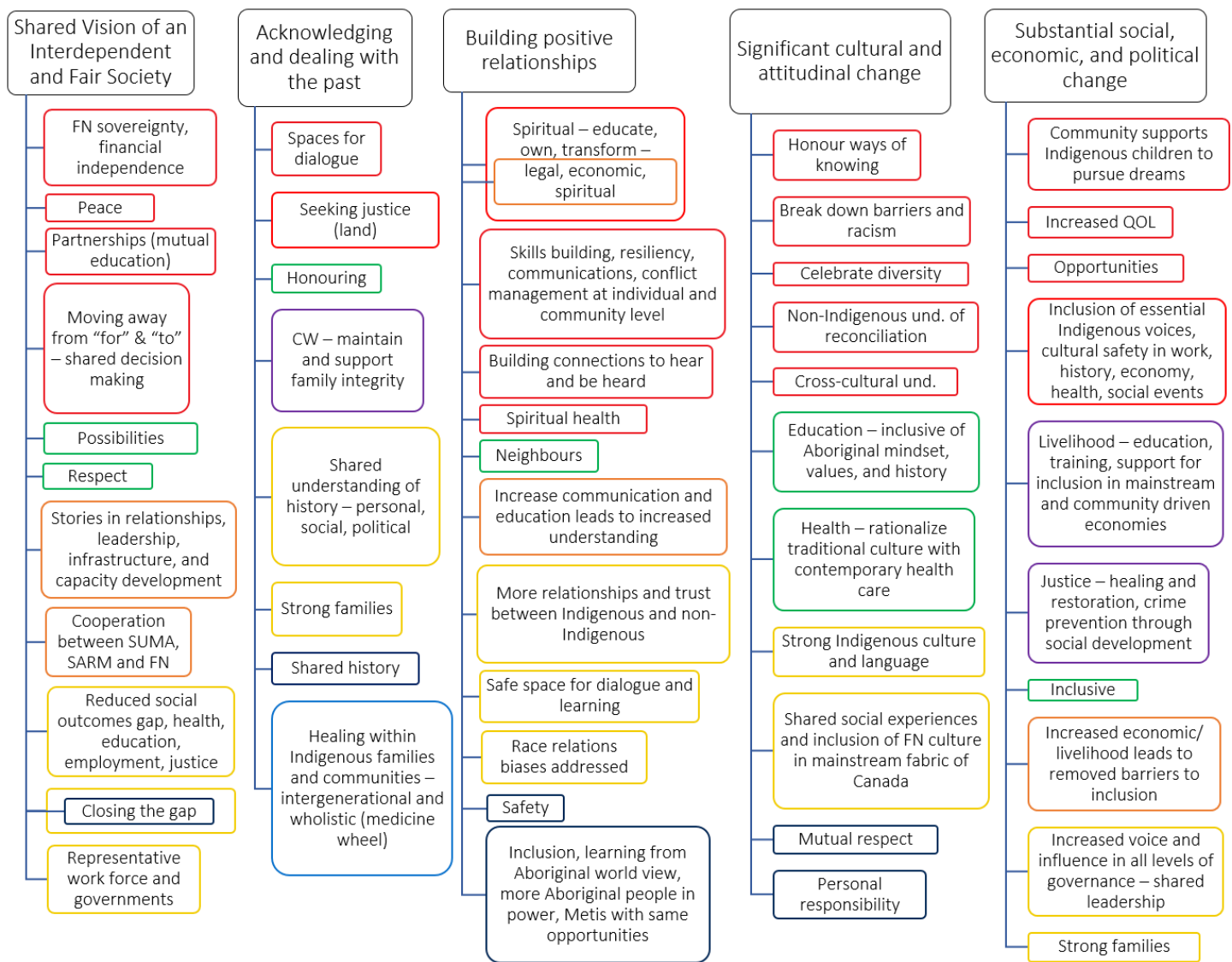
Below are the themes that arose from meetings with more than 380 Saskatchewan citizens:



Next, we organized these points into a framework. We used a definition of reconciliation used in Northern Ireland that we deemed relevant to the work occurring in Canada (Kelly & Hamber, 2004, p. 9):

Reconciliation after conflict is necessary, but must be voluntary. Reconciliation has 5 interwoven ideas:

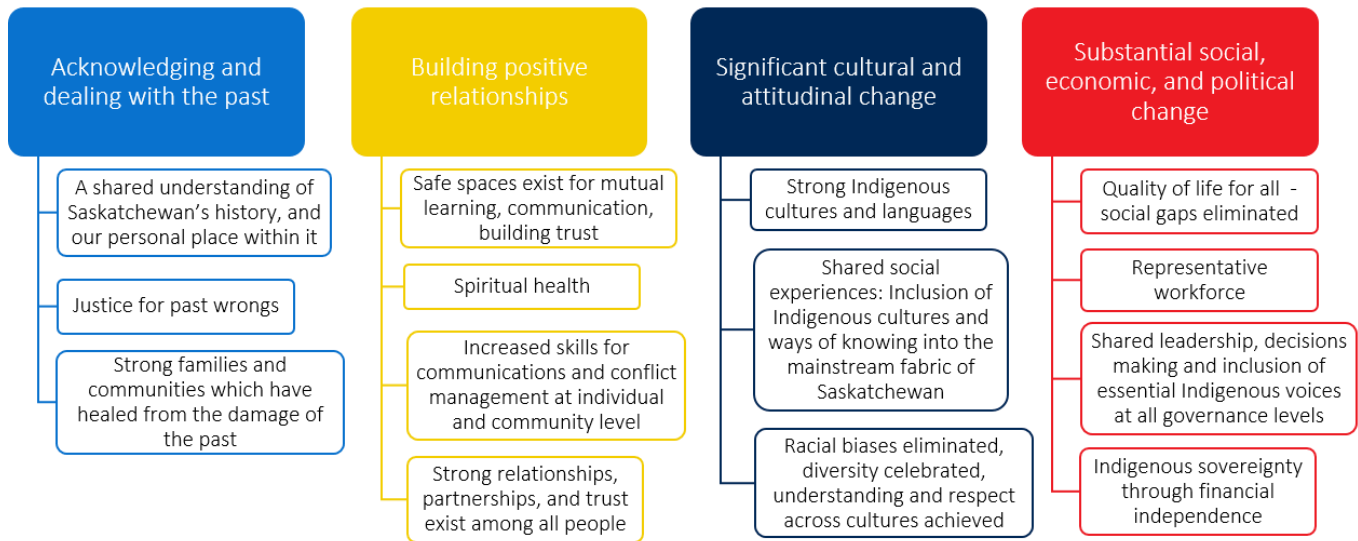
- "Developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past
- Building positive relationships
- Significant cultural and attitudinal change
- Substantial social, economic and political change"



Legend

Moosejaw and Regina, 04/2014, 03/2015	Saskatoon 06/2015	Lloydminster 10/2015
Saskatoon 10/2015	Wichitowin 11/2015	Conference Board 12/2015
Prince Albert (Elders) 01/2016		

Reasoning that “Developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society” was the process we were undertaking, we decided to further synthesize the data under the remaining 4 “to-do’s” for reconciliation:



Participants also **defined reconciliation** for the many institutions that affect their lives:

Education	Economic Livelihood	Justice	Health	Child Welfare
Inclusive of Aboriginal mindset, values, and history	Education, training, and support for inclusion in mainstream and community driven economies	Focus is on healing, restoration, and crime prevention through social development	Rationalize traditional culture w contemporary health care	Family integrity is maintained and supported

Attempting to synthesize these many themes has **led us to our current vision**:

Reconciliation in Saskatchewan is each citizen of the province taking personal responsibility to do what they can to create an interdependent and fair society where:

- Indigenous cultures, languages, ways of knowing and governance structures are strong and sovereign, while also included in and contributing to the overall fabric of Saskatchewan life;
- We share a common understanding of Saskatchewan’s history, and our personal place within it;
- Justice for past wrongs has been achieved, and families and communities are strong and healing;
- Safe spaces exist and skills are developed for mutual learning, communication across cultures, trust building, partnerships, and shared social experiences;
- We all enjoy a high quality of life, and full participation in the economy;
- Governance at all levels, including institutions of education, health, justice, economy and social services, represent and benefit from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership, values, history and ways of knowing.

This vision is a work in progress. We continue to ask Saskatchewan citizens to envision successful reconciliation, to ensure we’re on the right track. What do you think? What does reconciliation mean to you? Where will you start? Let us know what you’re up to via email, facebook or twitter.