



Returning to Spirit (RTS) is a non-profit organization that designs and delivers workshops addressing residential school issues that have negatively impacted First Nations People, religious communities and Canadian society in general. Our focus is on **moving people forward** through the principles of personal empowerment. This defines all our work, including coaching sessions and consulting, designed to support individuals, families, organizations and whole communities to move forward in life. Our work goes beyond healing. It provides **conditions for transformation** in personal, family, community, and organizational life.

Since it began in 2001, **The Returning To Spirit - A Step Beyond Healing Program** has helped thousands of people come to terms with their residential school experiences and make a positive move forward in their lives. Transforming the relationship between First Nations and religious communities from one of adversity to one of mutual understanding and healing is just one benefit of this unique program. Returning to Spirit produces transformational results that have been profoundly life changing and sustainable for individuals, families, and communities – outcomes include: a drop in welfare claims, increased employment and an overall reduction in social issues. The program has become so popular there is a waiting list of more than 50 First Nation communities across Canada and requests for an adapted workshop have come from Corrections Canada, France and Sri Lanka.

The **intention** of Returning to Spirit program is to give back to individuals, organizations and communities what is rightfully theirs - **ownership of their future**. In the training, people shift from **depending** on the community (or organization/others) to **being** the community (or organization/other). It moves individuals from **being spectators** to **being players** in life, to becoming **responsible and powerful** leaders.

Returning to Spirit (RTS) programs are intended to initiate this process of revitalization. We believe that when a critical mass of people participate in this kind of transformational work, whole organizations and communities will shift from being in a condition of what we call “survival” to a condition of responsibility. Empowerment and reconciliation leads to a deeper sense of commitment and purpose with people knowing they are **responsible for creating the quality of their life and work**.