

## November Committee Meeting

Facilitators: Commissioners Mia Schultz & Melody Mackin

AGENDA		
3:00 pm	Language Accessibility	Melody
5 min	Land Acknowledgement	Mia
2 min	Attendance -place name, pronouns, where from and organization you are representing in the chat - optional unless speaking during the meeting. Share email addresses with us if you want periodic emails and updates.	Melody
3 min	Working Pledge	Mia
30 min	Welcome and introductions PROMPT	Melody
2 min	Administrative Updates	Ann
Old Business		
45 min	Discussion on Committees for Next Phases (infrastructure for committees)	Melody & Mia
5 Minute Break		
New Business		
10 min	Committee Members Update -Update us on your community news	
	Public comments -limit of 2 minutes per person	
5:00 pm	Adjourn	

All meeting materials, when available, can be found on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission webpage <https://vtrc.vermont.gov>.

Meetings will be transcribed, and minutes will be posted in a timely manner. To request language translation, including American Sign Language, please contact us at [VTRC@vermont.gov](mailto:VTRC@vermont.gov). Please contact us 72 hours in advance if you need these services for meetings.

# Process for Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission (VTRC) Committee Members

## Selection of Committee Members

**Objective:** Select 30 committee members representing diverse identities, experiences, and regions across Vermont.

### **Criteria:**

- Geographic diversity from all parts of the state.
- Representation:
  - Individuals who identify as Native American or Indigenous;
  - Individuals with physical, psychiatric, or mental conditions or disability, and the families of individuals with the physical, psychiatric or mental health condition or disability;
  - Black individuals and other individuals of color;
  - Individuals with French Canadian, French- Indian or other mixed ethnic or racial heritage;
  - Other populations and communities at the discretion of the Commissioners.
- Individuals with a commitment to the principles of truth, reconciliation, and justice.
- Professionals or community members involved in areas such as restorative justice, education, research, and healing.

### **Nomination Process:**

- Open call for nominations from community organizations, advocacy groups, and public entities.
- Nominees must submit a short biography, detailing their connection to the community and motivation to serve.
- Building and Planning from the VTRC will review applications and make final decisions, ensuring a balance of perspectives.

## Role of Committee Members

### **Honorary Witnesses:**

Committee members will act as honorary witnesses during key events hosted by the VTRC, ensuring that each truth-telling process is observed and respected. These events will include:

**Private Office Hours:** Intimate spaces where individuals can share their experiences with the commission.

**Public Truth-Telling Statements:** Events where community members openly share their stories.

**Virtual Sessions:** Online spaces for those who cannot attend in person to participate in the truth-telling process.

## **Scheduling and Participation**

- Committee members will be given the freedom to choose the dates and locations they would like to attend as witnesses.
- Members should express their availability and preferences on a sign-up sheet
- If necessary, we may ask members to attend additional events (in-person, virtual, public, private) to ensure that all types of sessions are properly supported.
- A minimum attendance requirement for at least 3 events
- We will provide a gift card in the amount \$25/events to offset any barriers or expenses to get to events.

## **Responsibilities After Witnessing**

- After attending an event as a witness, committee members are required to:
- Attend the next public committee meeting (scheduled at regular intervals, such as monthly).
- Present a synopsis of the statements or stories they witnessed. This synopsis should:
- Summarize the key themes or issues raised.
- Reflect on the emotional and societal impact of the statements.
- Provide insights on how the statements relate to the broader mission of the VTRC.
- Offer recommendations based on their observations. Recommendations can be made in the following categories:
  - Research: Suggestions on areas of further investigation or study based on the stories heard.
  - Education: Ideas for how to educate the public or specific communities on the historical or contemporary issues raised.
  - Restorative Justice: Proposals for actions that can be taken to repair harm or foster healing in individuals or communities.
  - Healing: Recommendations for programs or initiatives that can promote healing, both for individuals who gave statements and for the larger community.

## **Review and Incorporation of Feedback**

- The VTRC will collect the synopses and recommendations from committee members'
- A follow-up process will be in place, ensuring that all suggestions are:
- Documented in official VTRC records.
- Considered when shaping future VTRC actions, research efforts, or outreach programs.
- Integrated into any public reports or recommendations the VTRC produces for state agencies or the public.

## **Ongoing Engagement**

Committee members will remain actively engaged throughout the VTRC's tenure. Beyond their role as witnesses, they will:

- Serve as ambassadors for the VTRC's mission, helping to promote the importance of truth and reconciliation throughout their communities.
- Participate in training sessions to deepen their understanding of the issues surrounding truth-telling, reconciliation, and justice.

- Be invited to contribute to the final report and recommendations that the VTRC will produce, offering their unique perspectives on how Vermont can heal and move forward.

### **Accountability and Commitment**

All committee members must commit to the process with integrity and sensitivity. They will:

- Respect the confidentiality of individuals who provide private statements.
- Approach their role with a spirit of compassion and empathy, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued.
- Be held accountable to attend the sessions they commit to and provide thorough feedback.
- Be willing to recuse themselves if they have personal conflicts of interest with any statements or individuals involved.