The Aboriginal people of Canada have experienced an extremely challenging history of Residential schools. Although many survived and are living today with children and grandchildren who are working to restore traditional knowledge and well-being to their communities, there is still much work to be done to bring healing and reconciliation to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Dr. Eileen Antone, Emeritus, University of Toronto is a member of the Oneida of the Thames First Nation - Turtle Clan. She is the past Director of Aboriginal Studies/Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives at the University of Toronto. Dr. Antone served as a faculty member in the department of Adult Education, Community Development, and Counselling Psychology as well as the Transitional Year Programme. During her academic career, the subject of her research, professional writing, teaching, and field development has been Aboriginal knowledge and traditional ways of being.

Since retirement, Dr. Antone has moved back to her home community, and one of her commitments is to learn the Oneida language with the help of her husband and community language courses. She serves on the Oneida Long Term Care Home Committee and is on the Oneida United Church Board. She is also a member of the University of Toronto Indigenous Initiatives Council and the UT Elder’s Circle, as well as a member of St. Paul’s University College Indigenous Advisory Council.

She is the mother of three beautiful daughters and the grandmother of six wonderful grandchildren. Her ambition is to help her children and grandchildren learn the beautiful language of her ancestors.