

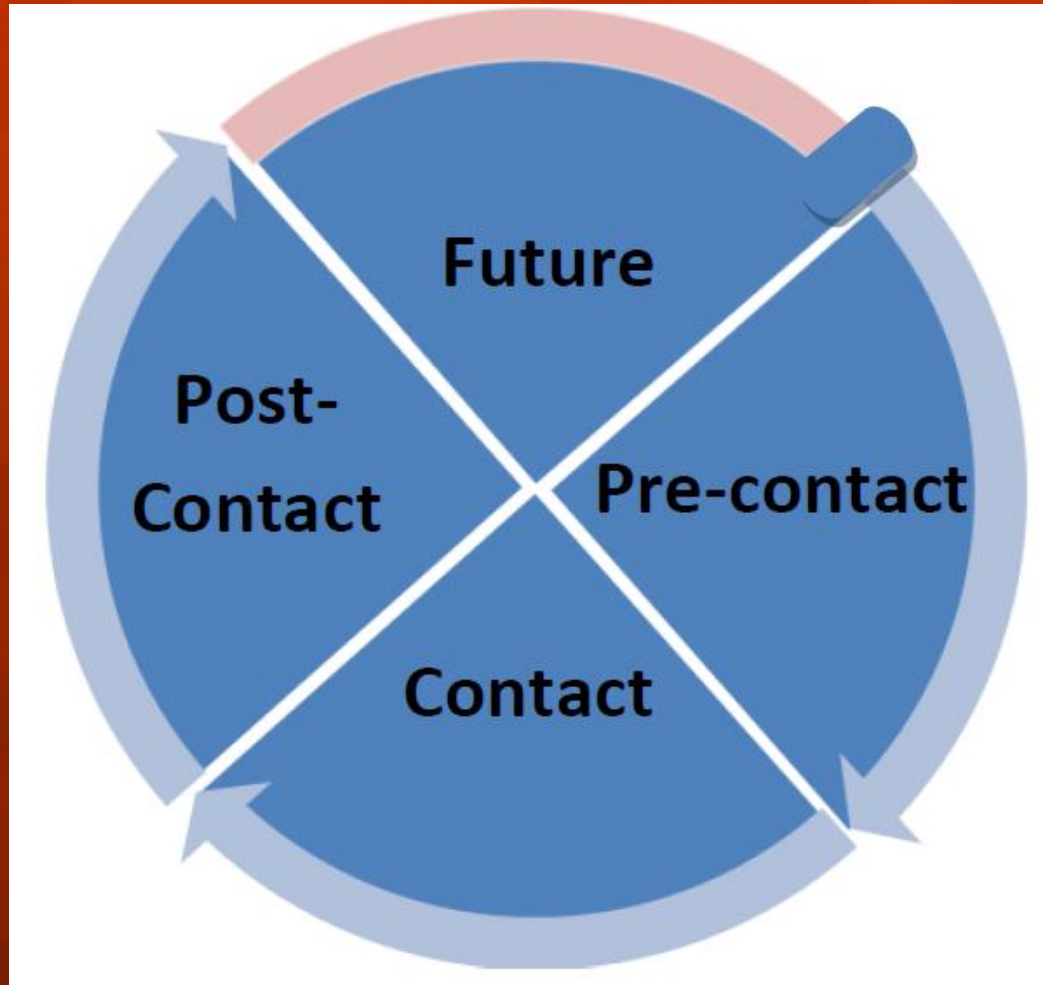
Implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's **Calls to *Action***

Ontario College of Teachers' Conference 2016

May 26, 2016

Chelsea Hotel, Toronto

Context



TRC Background

2007: Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement creates historic Commission

TRC Hearings

- 77 communities
- 7 National Events
- 240 hearing days
- 7,000 statements



Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a beautiful word . . . it is all about creating something new while fully recognizing the past. . .

Both parties need to address the situation in truth, understand its profound impact, learn lessons, and then rebuild....

Honourable David C. Onley, TRC Honorary Witness

**For the child taken,
For the parent left behind.**



Principles of Reconciliation

1. UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples is framework for reconciliation.
2. First Nations, Inuit & Métis peoples have Treaty and constitutional rights that must be recognized & respected.
3. Reconciliation is **process of healing relationships** that requires public truth sharing, apology, commemoration & redress of past harms.

Principles of Reconciliation

4. Reconciliation **requires action to address destructive impacts** on Aboriginal education, language & culture, health, child welfare, administration of justice, economic opportunity & prosperity.
5. Reconciliation must create **more equitable society, closing gaps** in social, health & economic outcomes.

Principles of Reconciliation

6. **All Canadians are Treaty peoples & share responsibility** for mutually respectful relationships.
7. Perspectives of **Aboriginal Elders & Knowledge Keepers** re concepts & practices of reconciliation are **vital** to long-term reconciliation.

Principles of Reconciliation

- 8. Aboriginal cultural revitalization, & integration of Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols & connection to land are essential to reconciliation process.**
- 9. Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, transparency, & investment of resources**

Principles of Reconciliation

10. Reconciliation requires **sustained public education, dialogue, & youth engagement** about history & legacy of residential schools, Treaties & aboriginal rights, & past and present contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canadian society.

Calls to Action

The TRC final report includes Calls to Action in the following areas:

- Education
- Culture and language
- Spirituality
- Health
- Justice
- Governance
- Poverty
- The missing and murdered
- Child Welfare

COO STRATEGY

COO Strategy

- Working together among Youth, Health, Social Services, Education and Justice to develop a wholistic and comprehensive strategy.
- Identified themes:
 - **Access** to services and initiatives
 - Access and control of **data**
 - Need for jurisdictional clarity
 - Awareness training
 - **overrepresentation** of Aboriginal people and youth in correctional institutions
 - Parenting programs
 - Need for new or improved collaboration with federal and provincial governments

COO Education Unit Strategy

First Nations Education Strategy – priority areas:

- Language and culture
 - Curriculum
 - Languages teachers and programming
 - Assessment
- Data and reporting
 - All levels
- Relationship building/maintenance
 - Education services agreements
 - Professional learning/development
 - Transitions programming



CALLS TO ACTION

EDUCATION



**All First Nation children
deserve opportunities for a
better life**

Number 7

We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.



Addressing #7

Federal Budget 2016 indicates:

- Funding will support “a respectful process of consultation and partnership with First Nations” on the establishment and implementation of new systems and agreements for First Nations education

Number 8

We call upon the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.



Addressing #8

Federal Budget 2016 provides an additional **\$2.6 billion over the next 5 years** on improving primary and secondary education for First Nations children

- Broken down this means a 37% annual increase (increases over time)



Number 9

We call upon the federal government to prepare and publish annual reports comparing funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves, as well as educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.

Number 10

*We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation **with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples.** The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:*

#10 Principles

- i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.
- ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates.
- iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.
- iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.
- v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.
- vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.
- vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.

The full participation and **informed consent** of First Nations is key

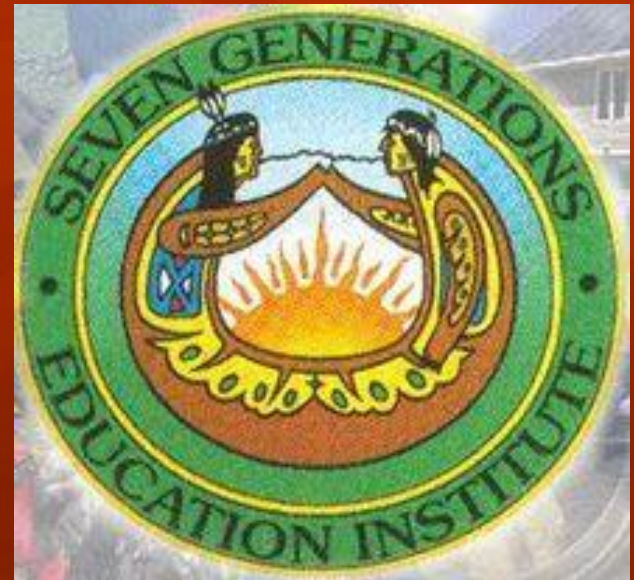
Addressing #10

Province of Ontario:

- FNMI Framework
 - Funding to school boards
- APSET Framework
 - Funding to post-secondary institutions
- Culturally appropriate curriculum
 - Establishing a steering committee for advice
- Languages programming
 - Requires increased commitment

Number 11

We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.



Addressing #11

Unfortunately there was no increase for PSE in Federal Budget 2016

Provincial Budget 2016 included free tuition for students with financial need from families with incomes of \$50,000 or lower

- COO and the province must work in partnership to ensure the process is accessible to FN learners and FN sponsors

Number 12



We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

Addressing #12

Federal Budget 2016 commits to the development of a new National Framework on Early Learning and Child Care for First Nations.

Provincial Budget 2016 is silent on development of culturally appropriate ECE programs for First Nations.

Teachers, Administrators and School Boards

- Develop a solid understanding of the full-circle context
- Review and understand the Political Accord as a guiding document for activity
- Understand and provide input on the activities of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of TCU
- Request/provide educator training in incorporating First Nation indigenous pedagogy, cultures, languages and histories (including treaties, residential schools and 60's scoop)
- Contact First Nations and First Nations organizations for information and participation – develop and sustain relationships