

Called to Action Part 2 – How are the 94 Calls to Action Calling You?

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) spent two years studying how the Indian Act and Indian Residential School policies worked together to devastate families and create generations of traumatic legacy for Indigenous Peoples. While we can never undo what has been done in the past, the TRC is optimistic about respectful co-existence in the future and has mapped out 94 concrete steps towards reconciliation: [94 Calls to Action](#).

It takes about an hour to sit down with the 11 page, 94 point document and assess where your interests intersect with the aims of the TRC. The document is organized into 1) calls to redress legacy and 2) calls to promote reconciliation and coexistence. I bet every one of us is being called by at least 5 out of the 94.

To get you thinking about what it takes to make a Commitment to Action, here's a summary of my attempt to relate the Calls to Action to my profession as an accredited, practicing ADR professional:

Legacy Calls ask us to become culturally aware, sensitive and competent before imposing our paradigm of neutrality, fairness, justice, etc. on an individual, community or group

- Child Welfare Calls 1-5 put Indigenous children and their best interests first in the child welfare and family justice systems.
- Education Calls 6-12 ask us to be savvy about education inequities and biases in secondary systems and to research and celebrate genuine reconciliation efforts at post-secondary institutions.
- Language and Culture Calls 13-17 ask for access, attention and respect for context, history, Gladue reports and language accommodation in all interactions with professionals and especially in court-connected and justice contexts.
- Health Calls 18-24 ask us to facilitate meaningful conversations about care and service delivery and to assist with jurisdictional disputes about Indigenously-appropriate health care. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) provides the objective global criteria for inclusive and collaborative consultation and health care system design. Canada's commitment to the UNDRIP forms the foundation for all calls to follow.
- Justice Calls 25-42 call for independent investigation of Crown crimes against Indigenous Peoples and historical, cultural, legal and Indigenous rights training for the legal profession and law schools staff and students, court and justice connected professionals. These calls remind us that transforming Crown-Indigenous relations rests on transforming justice to include and support Indigenously relevant forms of justice and healing systems, including trauma and FASD informed approaches.

Reconciliation Calls begin with Calls 43-44 which ground us in the UNDRIP and the expectations of the global community that Canada will honour the findings and settlements of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

- Covenant of Reconciliation Calls 45-49 call for the honouring of original covenants between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples as a basis for developing a Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation to define future relationships.
- Equity Calls 50-52 ask us to think about how access to justice is controlled and how we can support integrating and advancing access to First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples' systems of justice.
- Reconciliation Plan Calls 53-56 ask us to dig deep in our wells of ADR experience and tools and participate actively in promoting the kinds of dialogue and ADR processes that honour coexistence.
- Church Apologies and Reconciliation Calls 58-61 ask us to think about how ADR can support community-controlled healing, relationship building, regional dialogue and reconciliation processes.
- Education and Youth Programs Calls 62-66 ask us to think about how ADR can respond to the need for innovative and interactive reconciliation processes that engage youth, teachers, school administrators and school communities to build teacher and student capacities for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect.
- Museums and Archives Calls 67-70 ask us to think about the UN Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and other research on reconciliation globally to determine Canada's compliance with global expectations, particularly with regard to "consultation".

- Calls 71-91 invite us to participate in taking action on Missing Children and Burial Information, establishing a National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and commemoration of those harmed by residential schools. This includes celebrating Indigenous sports and athletes and to holding media accountable for properly reflecting the diverse cultures, languages and perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.
- Call 92 asks all of us to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework for all organizations. This means providing education for all employees and volunteers on the histories and legacies of Crown relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples. It also calls us to take and provide training on intercultural competencies, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.
- Calls 93-94 will help newcomers to Canada understand the history of this country through Indigenous perspectives and remind us that Treaties are laws. These calls are for adherence to Treaties with Indigenous Peoples as a core competency of Canadian citizenship.

The process of reconciliation cannot happen without individuals taking individual action. I challenge you to review the 94 Calls to Action.