



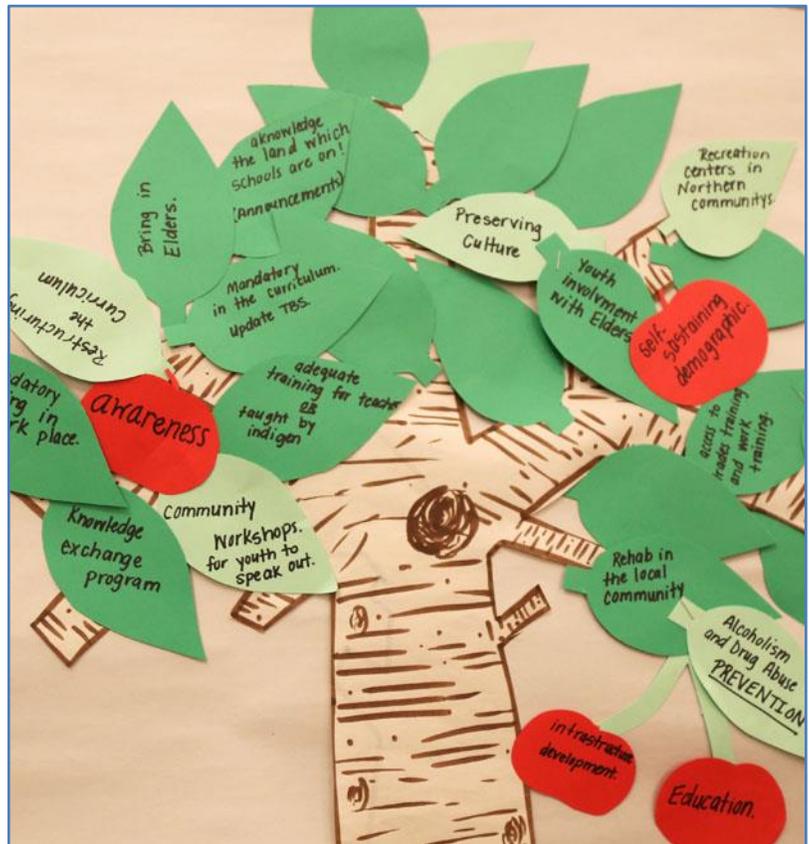
The Students
Commission
Centre of Excellence for
Youth Engagement



TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

FEBRUARY 2018

Some may consider Canada’s 150 years as something worthy of celebration, but to many, this represents 150 years of oppression and violence. Trauma caused by residential schools and oppression inflicted on Indigenous peoples of this land still impacts all aspects of Indigenous young peoples’ lives. There are many areas which require improvement before reconciliation can truly be achieved. The first steps towards reconciliation are education, awareness, and empathy building. Although funding is a necessary aspect of improving current living conditions of Indigenous people, community capacity building needs to become a focus in order for all communities to prosper and be self-sustaining. In this report, we share our recommendations developed at the #CanadaWeWant youth conference to guide us along the path of truth and reconciliation.



The Truth and Reconciliation Theme Team’s Dream Tree.

SUMMARY

The path to truth and reconciliation is multi-layered and will require Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to unite and walk the path together. There are four main areas the federal government needs to address to progress along the path to truth and reconciliation.

These four areas are **Awareness, Access to Resources and Opportunity, Capacity Building and Building Sustainable Communities, and Celebrating and Practicing Indigenous Culture.**

Awareness: Our recommendations include restructuring of school curriculum across Canada to help educate, inform, build empathy and break stereotypes of Indigenous history and culture.

Access to Resources and Opportunity: Our recommendations include increased access to medical care and mental health support, especially in small rural communities.

Capacity Building and Sustainable Communities: Our recommendations include more in-school support, trades training, and job opportunities for Indigenous youth.

Celebrating and Practicing Indigenous Culture: Our recommendations include supporting Indigenous ceremonies and celebrations in public spaces.



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#CANADA WE WANT



The change we want to see:

The Canada We Want is one in which all Indigenous people are connected to their culture, and one in which all people in Canada understand they have a role to play in working towards Truth and Reconciliation. The Canada We Want has a new and trusting relationship between Indigenous people and the Government of Canada. The Canada We Want provides adequate resources, supports and opportunities in all Northern, remote, and reserve Indigenous communities.

Rehabilitation processes that incorporate traditional teaching

The way we want to get there (Activities):

All people in Canada have the opportunity to engage in dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to build empathy and understanding of how we will walk the path of Reconciliation together.

The way we want to get there (Activities):

All publically-funded school curricula teach young people Canada's true past and emphasize that we can and must do better in supporting Indigenous people.

The way we want to get there (Activities):

All Indigenous youth will have access to their culture, regardless of where they live. For example, non-Indigenous Foster Parents caring for Indigenous children must be obligated to connect the child to their culture in an authentic and meaningful way.

What we need to get there (Resources):

The Government of Canada must commit to implementing all TRC Calls to Action.

The way we want to get there (Resources):

All Governments in this country (Indigenous, Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Municipal) must work together to support Indigenous people.

What are the values and the principles to ground our recommendations?

Our Recommendations are grounded in the values of honesty, listening, compassion and commitment to working together towards a better future for Indigenous people in Canada.

What are the values and the principles to ground our recommendations?

Our Recommendations are grounded in an ultimate respect for the diverse Indigenous teachings and culture, especially the Medicine Wheel.