



## **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION'S 94 CALLS TO ACTION**

### **OVERVIEW**

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In its final report the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) called on governments, educational and religious institutions, civil society groups and all Canadians to take action on the 94 Calls to Action. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) pressed for the establishment of a joint AFN-Canada Ministerial-level Working Group to ensure that Canada's approach to implementation of the TRC Calls to Action is aligned with First Nations objectives and perspectives and meet the minimum standards of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In September 2016, on behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), National Chief Perry Bellegarde wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau proposing next steps to develop a joint AFN-Canada process to discuss joint priorities including implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a legislative framework to adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On December 15, 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau took some first steps to respond to the AFN's proposal respecting process and action on the 94 Calls to Action. Prime Minister Trudeau announced his commitment to meet regularly with the AFN to advance progress on shared priorities. This commitment has been given life through the AFN Canada

Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities that was signed June 12, 2017.

Of the 94 Calls to Action, 46 require a direct response from the Government of Canada, 30 are shared by federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments, and the remainder are the responsibility of other organizations.

Call to Action #53 calls upon the Parliament of Canada, in consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal Peoples, to enact legislation to establish a National Council for Reconciliation. The legislation would establish the council as an independent, national oversight body, with membership jointly appointed by the Government of Canada and national Aboriginal organizations, and consisting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members. Its mandate would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- i) Monitor, evaluate and report annually to Parliament and the people of Canada on the Government of Canada's post-apology progress on reconciliation to ensure that government accountability for reconciling the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown is maintained in the coming years.
- ii) Monitor, evaluate and report annually to Parliament and the people of Canada on reconciliation progress across all levels and sectors of Canadian society, including

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the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

- iii) Develop and implement a multi-year National Action Plan for Reconciliation, which includes research and policy development, public education programs, and resources.
- iv) Promote public dialogue, private/public partnerships, and public initiatives for reconciliation.

On December 14, 2017, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

(CIRNA), Carolyn Bennett announced the appointment of six members to the Interim Board of Directors for the National Council for Reconciliation. Over the next six months, the board members will engage with various stakeholders to recommend options for the establishment of the National Council for Reconciliation and the endowment of a National Reconciliation Trust. Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild will chair the Interim Board and will be joined by Max Fineday, Mike DeGagné, Clint Davis, Edith Clouthier and Jean Teille.

### UPDATE

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As of March 2018, there has been no enactment of legislation, nor the creation of a National Council for Reconciliation. There are, however, commitments to do so.

The AFN is working with First Nations leadership, and technicians in partnership with the Government of Canada, to co-develop initiatives that address the Calls to Action. This includes reforms to First Nations Child Welfare, Indigenous Languages Legislation, amendments to the Citizenship Guide, and the Oath of Citizenship, as well as a national action plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On May 3, 2018, the Government of Canada released content via [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca)

regarding their responses to the Calls to Action entitled: "Delivering on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action." The website largely outlines the commitments the Government has made.

The interim report, releasing the 94 Calls to Action, was released on June 2, 2015. To celebrate its third anniversary, the AFN is encouraging action and results from governments and Canadians, such as sending a letter of support to Members of Parliament for Bill C-262, *An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which relates to Call to Action #43.

### NEXT STEPS

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- The AFN will continue working to take concrete actions to address the Calls to Action and will report on progress to the AFN Executive Committee and Chiefs-in-Assembly.