



The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) believes **reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada is long overdue.**

The PSBAA is committed to fostering positive relationships, based on mutual respect and goodwill, with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Alberta.

The PSBAA supports the implementation of all 94 Calls to Action of the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and affirms the Alberta government's commitment to Education for Reconciliation by including First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences throughout Alberta's K-12 education curriculum.

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PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

**TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION (TRC)**

**Calls to Action in
Relation to Education**



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
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PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE PSBAA.**

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Within the Association, the PSBAA continues to seek ways to advance awareness and understanding of the importance of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

The PSBAA has amended its bylaws to allow any First Nations Education Authority in Alberta to join the association as a full member.

The PSBAA has created an award to honour an individual(s) or organization(s) in Promoting and Advancing One or More of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in Relation To Education in Alberta. We were honoured to present the inaugural award in June 2021 to Dr. Rubi Helen Shirley, trustee with Northland School Division.

The PSBAA calls on the Government of Canada to enact all of the Calls to Action within its jurisdiction without further delay.

The PSBAA fully supports all of the TRC Calls to Action on education:

6. We call upon the Government of Canada to repeal Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
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.
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.
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.
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:
 - 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.
11. We call on the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.
 12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

The PSBAA also supports the TRC Calls to Action on Education for Reconciliation:

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:
 - i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.
 - ii. Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
 - iii. Provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
 - iv. Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.
63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:
 - i. Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on

Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.

- ii. Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
 - iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
 - iv. Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.
64. We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders.
 65. We call upon the federal government, through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, post-secondary institutions and educators, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and its partner institutions, to establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance understanding of reconciliation.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta supports each of the TRC Calls to Action and further encourages the Minister of Education and the Minister of Advanced Education to pursue each of these calls to action that can be accomplished by the provincial government.

The federal government has proclaimed September 30 as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The PSBAA encourages everyone to set aside the day to find out more about the 94 Calls to Action, and the legacy and impact of residential schools in Alberta and in Canada.

The 94 Calls to Action and the reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are posted on the website of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba at the following link:

nctr.ca/records/reports/#trc-reports

