



# **Called to Action**

An Initiative to Create Learning Outcomes Based on the  
Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

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# How this all began...

- Roundtable hosted by Senator Murray Sinclair
  - June 1, 2016 and Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy
- Focus on: TRC Report's calls to action related to Education, Training and Employment for Indigenous Peoples

- Seven-year commission to hear testimony of over 6000 residential school survivors
- Identified the need for on-going reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and societies
- 94 Calls to Action
  - | 4 specifically target “Education for Reconciliation”

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:

ii) Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.

63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:

iii) Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.

- Forums and Symposiums
  - University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, University of Alberta
- Indigenous Studies Programs or concentrations
  - At Carleton: Northern Studies, Indigenous Studies, Indigenous Policy and Administration, etc.
- Mandatory Indigenous Studies courses
  - University of Winnipeg, Lakehead, Laurentian



# What is Happening at Your Institution?



- Instructor capacity to teach Indigenous Studies
  - | Lack of good quality source material → Perpetuates stereotypes
  - | Alienation of Indigenous students
- Disconnected from student major & student interests
  - | Risk of becoming a burdensome and resented requirement
- Limited scope
  - | Indigenous histories, backward-looking



- Learning outcomes identify the knowledge, skills, and values student gain through a course of study
- Communicate the learning goals of a course or program around which teaching activities are oriented
- Learning outcomes that speak to Indigenous knowledge, practices, and values can be a part of any academic program

"I think what needs to happen is every course that's offered [at every institution] needs to be respectful of the experience of Indigenous peoples and also needs to bring that knowledge to the classroom so students can learn from that knowledge. And it doesn't matter the course, it doesn't matter the program — from nursing right through to kinesiology — every course should have an Indigenous component to it, and I honestly hope that's the direction we're heading,"

- **Robert Robson, Associate Professor, Department of Indigenous Learning, Lakehead University**  
Speaking to CBC Radio, October 2, 2016

## Our Plan...

- Develop a set of TRC-inspired learning outcomes that speak to Indigenous issues and Indigenous ways of knowing
- Learning outcomes that could be adopted and/or adapted by any academic unit on Campus
- Weave Indigenous approaches and ways of knowing into existing curricula
- Focus interdisciplinary teaching on Indigenous issues

# Some Examples...

- **Economics** students will be able to...
  - | *Explain how Indian Act policies have impacted economic development of lands and resources by settler populations*
- **Biology** students will be able to...
  - | *Apply Indigenous perspectives to explain the relationship between environmental factors (e.g., pollution) and health and wellbeing (e.g., female reproduction).*
- **Engineering** students will be able to...
  - | *Discuss the impact of sustainable harvesting of building materials, like wood and wood products, on Indigenous populations and community health*

- **Discipline specific**
  - | Integrated within knowledge, skills, values of the degree program
- **Breadth of topic areas**
  - | Indigenous traditions, historical events, past and current injustices, contemporary issues, traditional approaches and ways of knowing, accountability to land
- **Reconciliation in Action**
  - | Describe how Indigenous knowledge and approaches can be used to advance the knowledge and practices within the field of study

- Identifying and meeting with relevant stakeholders
- Develop learning outcomes
- Raise awareness and buy-in
- Work with academic units to adopt and implement



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