

**Issue: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report**

**Background:**

- Following many years of advocacy and the filing of a class action lawsuit in 2010, a negotiated agreement entitled the *Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement* (IRSSA) was reached between survivors of residential schools, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the federal government and representatives of the church entities which operated the residential schools. IRSSA provided for common experience payments and an Independent Assessment Process (IAP) to compensate survivors for the harms and abuse they suffered while attending these institutions. IRSSA also provided for the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).
- In 2015 the TRC produced a comprehensive Final Report with 94 Calls to Action, as well as 10 Principles for Reconciliation.
- The TRC was mandated to share the experiences of residential school survivors and families, and to share this information with all Canadians. Over the TRC's 5-year mandate they carried out extensive research and hosted national events across the country to raise awareness about the residential school system and its impacts. The search to uncover the truth of the legacy the Indian Residential Schools took the Commission to all parts of Canada. The commission listened to thousands of survivors, who bravely shared their experiences in residential schools all of which have been included in the Final Report.
- The AFN fully supports the mandate and the work that was done by the TRC and continues to advocate for the complete implantation of all 94 Calls to Action. As per Resolution 01/2015, Support for the Full Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Governments to take immediate steps to fully implement all the Calls to Action.
- Although Canada has publicly declared their support of the TRC Final Report and the 94 Calls to Action there has been little to no progress made in terms of their implementation. There are many significant barriers to reconciliation that remain.
- The 2020 AFN TRC Implementation Report card entitled "*Progress on Realizing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action*" (attached), found only little to moderate progress has been made on implementing the majority of the TRC's Calls to Action.

**Suggested Messaging:**

- First Nations and all Canadians want to see the complete and full implementation of all 94 Calls to Action.
- We must move forward from apology to action. First Nations people want to see immediate action on behalf of all parties involved including federal, provincial, and municipal governments and all church entities.
- Canada's educational and religious institutions, political and legal systems, corporate sector, and civil society must immediately begin to align their laws, policies and practices in ways which are consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- All Canadians and aspects of society must demonstrate their own determination and commitment to reconciliation.