

36. We call upon governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.
37. We call upon the federal government to provide more supports for Aboriginal programming in halfway houses and parole services.
38. We call upon governments to eliminate the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.
39. We call upon the federal government to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people.
40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services.
41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls.
42. We call upon governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the Constitution Act, 1982, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Collect for the Truth and Reconciliation of Canada, 2011

Holy One, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen, of story and of song, of heartbeat and of tears of bodies, souls, voices and all relations: you are the God of all truth and the way of all reconciliation.

Uphold with your love and compassion all who open their lives in the sacred sharing of their stories

breathe in us the grace to trust in your loving forgiveness, that we may face our histories with courage;

touch us through the holy gift of story that those who speak and those who listen may behold your own redeeming presence;

guide us with holy wisdom to enter through the gates of remorse that our feet may walk gently and firmly on the way of justice and healing.

Amen.

THE MATERIAL IN THIS BULLETIN HAS BEEN POSTED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. IF YOU ARE ONLINE PLEASE VISIT US THERE, SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, AND JOIN THE DISCUSSION.

Lent at ASK:

A Journey with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Canada's residential school system for Aboriginal children was an education system in name only for much of its existence. These residential schools were created for the purpose of separating Aboriginal children from their families, in order to minimize and weaken family ties and cultural linkages, and to indoctrinate children into a new culture—the culture of the legally dominant Euro-Christian Canadian society, led by Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. The schools were in existence for well over 100 years, and many successive generations of children from the same communities and families endured the experience of them. That experience was hidden for most of Canada's history, until Survivors of the system were finally able to find the strength, courage, and support to bring their experiences to light in several thousand court cases that ultimately led to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canada's history.

(from the preface to HONOURING THE TRUTH, RECONCILING FOR THE FUTURE)

The Truth and Reconciliation of Canada was established in 2008 as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. This Lent, here at All Saints Kingsway, we as a community are working our way through the TRC's 94 calls to action as part of our own communal walk towards reconciliation.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation hosts a website (<http://www.nctr.ca>) where you can access all the reports, monitor the response to each of these calls to action, and explore a vast collection of records.

HONOURING THE TRUTH, RECONCILING FOR THE FUTURE can be found on this site, under the Reports tab. It gives historical context for each of the 94 calls to action.

It's a difficult read. And that's just why we need to read it.

You'll find some sections fascinating, and some will make you angry. Some of it will make you believe in the spirit of hope, and some will just break your heart.

Second Week of Lent

Please refer to **HONOURING THE TRUTH, RECONCILING FOR THE FUTURE** (referenced on front page) for background information on why these calls to action are necessary.

TRC Calls to Action:

Health

18. We call upon the governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a result of previous government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize the healthcare rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
19. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.
20. In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.
21. We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.
22. We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian healthcare system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.
23. We call upon all levels of government to increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the healthcare field.
24. We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require students take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices.

Justice

25. We call upon the federal government to establish a written policy that reaffirms the independence of the RCMP to investigate crimes in which the government has its own interest.
26. We call upon governments to review and amend their statutes of limitations to ensure that governments and other entities cannot rely on limitation defences.
27. We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the legacy of residential schools, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal– Crown relations.
28. We call upon law schools to require all students take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, as outlined above.
29. We call upon the parties and the federal government to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously.
30. We call upon governments to eliminate the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade.
31. We call upon governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to causes of offending.
32. We call upon the federal government to allow trial judges, upon giving reasons, to depart from mandatory minimum sentences and restrictions on the use of conditional sentences.
33. We call upon governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, preventive programs.
34. We call upon governments to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to address the needs of offenders with FASD.
35. We call upon the federal government to eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system.