

## Issue: 10 Principles for Truth and Reconciliation

### Background:

- In the 2012 Interim Report, the TRC recommended that federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and all parties to the Settlement Agreement, use the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a framework for reconciliation in Canada.
- The TRC Provided the following 10 principles for Truth and Reconciliation to move forward on the path of reconciliation:
  1. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society.
  2. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.
  3. Reconciliation is a process of healing relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
  4. Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Aboriginal peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.
  5. Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.
  6. All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.
  7. The perspectives and understandings of Aboriginal Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.
  8. Supporting Aboriginal peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.
  9. Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.
  10. Reconciliation requires sustained public education and dialogue, including youth engagement, about the history and legacy of residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal rights, as well as the historical and contemporary contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian society.

### Suggested Messaging:

- The TRC's *10 principles for Truth and Reconciliation* and the *94 Calls to Action* must be fully implemented.
- Reconciliation must support First Nations peoples as they heal from the destructive legacies of colonization. Reconciliation must inspire First Nations and non-First Nations peoples to transform Canadian society.
- All governments and church entities must fully cooperate and work in full partnership with all First Nations to achieve reconciliation. Reconciliation is a multi-generational journey that involves call Canadians and all aspects of society.
- Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between First Nations and non-First Nation peoples in Canada. For that to happen, there must be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, and action to change behaviour moving forward.