

RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Canada has a profound legal and moral obligation to reconcile and provide restitution for the colonial relations – marked by violent expropriation, displacement, and forced assimilation – that have undermined the cultural, governance and economic foundations of the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

The Green Party of Canada recognizes the ongoing leadership, resistance and resilience of Indigenous Peoples in the face of systemic oppression and intergenerational trauma. **A Green government will support all Indigenous Peoples' efforts to emerge from the positions of disadvantage in which Canada has placed them**, including support for cultural revitalization and healing.

The Green Party of Canada reaffirms its support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Greens are committed to implementing UNDRIP for those First Nations who support it. The Green Party believes that every nation has a right to decide who will speak on its behalf, and the government of Canada must be led by Indigenous Peoples with respect to designing any UNDRIP legislation. We heard from several First Nations who told us that they had not been consulted on Bill C-15.

A Green government will ensure that all First Nations are thoroughly involved in the development and design of UNDRIP implementation legislation. Greens would also ensure that any Nations who do not support UNDRIP would not have it imposed upon them.

The Green Party of Canada is committed to Reconciliation, Nation-to-Nation engagement and self-determination for Indigenous Peoples, and believes that any meaningful path towards reconciliation in Canada must ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation leaders are leading the decisions about the future of their people, their lands and their territories.

A Green government will:

- Provide sustainable funding for new and existing Indigenous Healing Centres to address the harms caused by residential schools;
- Increase funding to Friendship Centres across Canada providing critical social services off-reserve;

- Honour the original request from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for funding for work on the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials Project;
- Call on the Pope to apologise on behalf of the Catholic Church for its involvement in residential schools;
- Recognize that Indigenous children in residential schools have been replaced by Indigenous children in foster care; Indigenous children account for 7.7 per cent of children in Canada, but 52.2 percent of children in care;
- Stop fighting the Canada's Human Rights Tribunal orders requiring the government to compensate the child and family victims of Canada's discrimination; and ensure non-status First Nations' children living off reserve have access to Jordan's Principle.

A Green government will respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands – whether First Nations, Métis Nation or Inuit – and respect all rights that their title to land entails, including the right to stewardship. We respect Inuit sovereignty over Inuit Nunangat. We support the full implementation of treaties and other self-government agreements between Canada and Indigenous governments. A Green government will welcome a genuine nation-to-nation engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent.

Treaties and Land Claims

1. Uphold fiduciary responsibilities, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Uphold Canada's fiduciary responsibility, fulfill Canada's responsibilities in agreements, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government.
2. Work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act.
 - In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act to establish an independent body that will decide on specific claims, ensuring that treaty negotiations are conducted and financed fairly and that treaty negotiations and claims resolutions do not result in the extinguishment of aboriginal and treaty rights.
3. Immediately implement the land claims agreements already negotiated and languishing for lack of funding, particularly for First Nations in the territories.
 - Ensure that negotiations of treaties and self-government are not based on the extinguishment of Indigenous title and rights, and on assimilation, but on reconciliation of rights and title, and that negotiations recognize the diversity of traditional self-governance.

Respecting Indigenous Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Nation-to-Nation relationships

1. Formally repudiate the doctrine of *terra nullius*, the doctrine of discovery, and other doctrines of superiority.
2. Guided by Indigenous leadership, establish a process to transition out from under the *Indian Act*.
 - With Indigenous leaders at the helm, establish processes for self-governing Indigenous Peoples and nations to transition out from under the Indian Act, grounding this in the doctrine of free, prior, and informed consent.
3. Implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
4. Affirm the inherent right of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation to determine child and family services.
 - Support kinship ties and ensure sufficient funding and resources so that families are kept together.
5. Work with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit and their governing institutions on a nation-to-nation basis.
 - Advance and implement agreements, and work in collaboration with nations to co-develop and co-design policy and programs that will benefit First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit.
6. Recognize the rights of non-status and Métis as “Indigenous.”
 - Accept CAP-Daniels recognition of non-Status and Métis as “Indigenous”
 - Accept UNDRIP recognition of the rights that Indigenous people possess, applying equally to all Indigenous people regardless of distinction, residence or status.
 - Work towards the settlement of community land and resource rights for Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) communities
 - Respect and act on 2018 CAP-Canada Political Accord
 - Include off-reserve Status, non-Status, Métis and Southern Inuit in the implementation of calls to action in Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQQIA+.

Cultural Revitalization and Healing

1. Implement all 94 of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
2. Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
3. Build community capacity to support exercising self-determination.
 - Support self-determination with effective, fully-funded organizations to represent and provide services to communities by expanding Basic Organizational Capacity (BOC) funding for Indigenous representative organizations.
 - Representation of youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQA+, and distinct identities among off-reserve Indigenous people must be adequately funded to ensure those perspectives are included.
 - Support research and identification of off-reserve Indigenous communities across Canada, with registration and membership systems.
 - Support the application of trusted research and data on urban Indigenous populations to acknowledge under-counting.
4. Ensure access to quality education for every First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit child.
 - Ensure that every First Nations, Métis and Inuit child has access to quality educational opportunities based on the expressed cultural, political and social priorities of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, following meaningful consultation.
 - Support the development of Indigenous education curricula that are language and culture-specific.
 - Increase access to post-secondary education for Indigenous youth by removing the two per cent funding cap, as well as fully funding the program backlog.
 - Support and sustain the transmission, proliferation, and regeneration of Indigenous cultural works and languages.
 - Educate non-Indigenous Canadians on the histories, customs, traditions and cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Turtle Island.
5. Honour the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling to compensate every child and family who was taken from their home on reserve.
6. Adopt recommendations on funding for First Nations Child and Family Services from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy's 2020 report.
 - Adopt a results framework for the well-being of children, families, and communities, such as the Measuring to Thrive framework proposed in the report.

- Budget for results with a block funding approach¹³ that addresses gaps and is linked to the results framework.
 - Undertake a full assessment of current capital stock.
- Establish a non-political First Nations policy and practice secretariat to support First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) agencies to transition to First Nations governance.
- Establish a group of FNCFS agencies and First Nations willing to be early adopters of the new performance and funding approach to model implementation.

Health and Wellness

1. End all drinking water and boil water advisories.
 - Invest in and upgrade critical infrastructure to ensure safe water access and to be able to lift boil water advisories in every community.
 - Support Indigenous-led processes to implement safe drinking water and wastewater management systems
2. Ensure access to high-quality safe and affordable housing.
 - See “Life with Dignity - Ensure access to housing for Indigenous Peoples”
3. Improve food security in northern communities.
 - Consulting with residents on Arctic farming, working with non-profit groups to build greenhouses or hydroponic towers and funding education programs in nutrition and horticulture.
4. Increase access to high-quality health care services.
 - Support healthcare services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders.
 - Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, and culturally appropriate reproductive health services that uphold reproductive autonomy.
 - Increase investments in Indigenous-led mental health (See “Life with Dignity - Expanded and enhanced mental health support”)
 - Sustain the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to continue capacity building in the healthcare profession for Indigenous communities.
 - Expand access to non-insured health benefits (NIHB) to all Indigenous people, regardless of Status, residency, membership or any other factors.
 - Ensure that compensation funds are made available to the spouses and families of all Aboriginal veterans.

13 Funding First Nations child and family services (FNCFS): A performance budget approach to well-being (July 2020) -

https://www.ifsd.ca/web/default/files/Blog/Reports/2020-09-09_Final%20report_Funding%20First%20Nations%20child%20and%20family%20services.pdf

- Allocate dedicated funding to support communities providing culturally appropriate home and community care for seniors, ensuring that Elders remain connected to their communities and culture.

DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

There is no singular catch-all solution to ending the systematic oppression that Black people, Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and members of other equity-seeking groups face. There are, however, steps that the federal government can and must take to address these long-standing injustices.

The Green Party of Canada is deeply committed to immediate as well as long-term actions that will truly address systemic racism in our public institutions, and will continue to propose bold, just, and necessary solutions.

A Green government will:

Take action on recommendations, calls to action, and calls for justice.

1. Implement recommendations to begin dismantling systemic racism in Canadian institutions.
 - Implement all of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
 - Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 - Implement the recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its Mission to Canada