

# Moving into the TRC Call to Actions: Workshop Outline

## 2 1/2 to 3 hours

*Set up: Small table in four corners on of the room. Above the table place the sign, with the station (Learn, Advocate, Recognize, Remember) and the quote. On table place symbols that might reflect that station's theme, and the pages of relevant Calls to Action. Have a bell to ring between stations. Have copies of the complete 94 Calls to Action available for all participants (TRC.ca)*

### **Opening: Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer (10 mins)**

- Acknowledge the Traditional territory where you are gathered
- Honour the survivors whose courage gave us truth
- Honour commissioners whose clarity gave us a path forward in 94 Calls to Action
- Remember this is about people—children--and the pain continues in intergenerational impacts.
- Dealing with a system within an aggressive assimilation policy—more than a few bad acts by a few bad people and, as a system, could not be redeemed by some good acts by some good people.
- Consider reading a quote by a survivor to start.
- Pray including for unlearning, and learning, gentleness in talking but persistent and commitment in action to bring about right relations. Pray for those who struggle still with the impacts of the schools.

### **TRC by the numbers (10 mins)**

- 150,000 children affected
- 139 schools
- 1883-1996, although most were closed by the 1980's
- 1931, at the peak, 80 schools were operative
- 60% were Roman Catholic, next were Anglicans, then United and Presbyterian
- 80,000 living students when the TRC started.
- @32,000 claims related to abuse, @6000 still in process
- 6780 testimonies were given
- 7 national events
- June 2015 94 Calls to Action and summary report issued
- December 2015 Full Reports Tabled (10 volumes)

### **TRC Calls to Action and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (10 mins)**

- TRC Calls to Action are comprehensive, they address both the past and the present injustices, they try to stop the ongoing harm and facilitate transformation. They are principled. Key principle is the UN Declaration.
- Commissioners frame reconciliation in principles, norms and standards of the UN Declaration
- What does that mean? A reminder about people(s), we are invited into a nation to nation relationship, A reminder about self-determination (UN Declaration was written by Indigenous peoples and reflects a commitment to self-determination), A reminder about rights, this is not about charity but about Indigenous rights.

### **Call to Action Roundabout (60 to 80 mins, could take break between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stations)**

Divide the group into four and have each group go to one of the four stations. Explain that we have divided the 94 Calls to Action into four themes: learn, remember, advocate and recognize. These themes include: Calls to Action related to our country's need to **learn** (and unlearn), Calls related to **remembering**, honouring, commemorating, Calls related to **advocacy** for Indigenous rights and equity, and Calls that urge us to **recognize** the legal rights of Indigenous peoples. When groups approach a station, read the quote and then briefly review the Calls to Action together. Tell them there is no need to read the title, and that these are summaries and not the full text. The full text can be made available at the end of the workshop. Invite the groups to discuss: What do you notice? What speaks to you? A bell will ring to tell you to move to the next station (note: a song or prayer could be added between stations). Participants could move every 15 to 20 mins, depending on time available.

### **Acting on What We Have Heard (30-60 mins)**

Invite brief reflections from the group on what they experienced. Invite the group to consider, within a large group or in small groups, how they will respond. Urge the group not to be overwhelmed but to take some consistent action, which they can build from. Options to consider might be:

-focusing on the Calls to Action directed at the churches (if the group is church related)

-joining the KAIROS and Legacy of Hope Campaign, Education for Reconciliation, on TRC 62i.

Information can be found at <https://www.kairoscanada.org/windsofchange>

-in line with TRC 48, commit to learn more about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and how your community could "adopt and comply" with the principles, norms and standards.

Plan clear next steps with responsibilities assigned.

### **Closing Prayer (5 mins)**

Remember to close in prayer—that we learn, recognize, advocate and remember.

**Use of this workshop is encouraged but please acknowledge its source as KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. Prepared by Jennifer Henry, 2016**

# ADVOCATE

Words must be accompanied by concrete action at all levels of Canadian society. If such actions are to be transformative, they cannot be predicated on good intentions but must be rooted instead in fundamental recognition of the human dignity and right or freedom of self-determining Indigenous peoples.

**–Taiiaike Alfred, Kanien'kehaka  
professor at the University of  
Victoria**

# CALLS FOR CHILD WELFARE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE OVER INCIDENCE OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN IN CARE

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**We call on the federal, provincial,  
territorial and Aboriginal governments to  
commit to reducing the number of  
Aboriginal children in care...**

**Calls to Action # 1-6**

# CALLS TO ADDRESS THE EQUITY GAP IN EDUCATION FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

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**We call on the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate the education and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians...**

**Calls to Action #7-12**

# **CALLS TO ENSURE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES ARE PROTECTED**

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**We call on the federal government to  
acknowledge that Aboriginal rights  
include Aboriginal language rights...**

**Calls to Action #13-16**

# CALL TO ENABLE NAME CHANGES

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**We call on all levels of government to enable residential school survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years...**

**Call to Action #17**

# CALLS TO ADDRESS THE GAP IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH

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**We call upon the federal, provincial and territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools...**

**Calls to Action #19-23**

# CALLS RELATED TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OR CONCERNING OVER REPRESENTATION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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**We call upon the federal, provincial and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade...**

**Calls to Action #25-26, 30-40**

# CALL FOR AN INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

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**We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls...**

**Call to Action #41**

# CALL FOR YOUTH FUNDING

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**We call upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community –based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation...**

**Call to Action #66**

# **CALLS ENSURING STRONG PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN SPORTS**

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**We call upon all levels of government to  
take action to ensure long-term  
Aboriginal athlete development and  
growth...**

**Calls to Action #88-91**

# CALL TO SETTLE OTHER RELATED CASES

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**We call upon the parties and, in particular the federal government, to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously on an agreed set of facts.**

**Call to Action #29**

# LEARN

The Canadian education system teaches Canadian children very little about Indigenous peoples...I still see far too many university students taking their first Indigenous studies courses, feeling shocked and betrayed as they learn about a history they've never imagined from a system they are expected to uphold. This needs to change.

**–Leanne Betasamosake Simpson,  
Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg, Writer  
and Professor**

# CALL TO EDUCATE IN HEALTH CARE

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**We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the UN Declaration, Treaties and Aboriginal Rights and Indigenous teachings and practices...**

**Call to Action #24**

# CALLS TO EDUCATE IN LAW

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**We call upon the Law Societies to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the UN Declaration, Treaties and Aboriginal Rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations...**

**We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law...**

**Calls to Action #27-28**

# CALL TO EDUCATE IN CIVIL SERVICE

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**We call upon all governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the UN Declaration, Treaties and Aboriginal Rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations...**

**Call to Action #57**

# CALL TO EDUCATE IN CHURCH COMMUNITIES

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**We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential schools students, their families and communities were necessary.**

**Call to Action #59**

# CALL TO EDUCATE CLERGY AND LAY STAFF

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**We call upon the leaders of church parties and other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, etc...to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and roles of the church parties, the history and legacy of religious conflict...**

**Call to Action #60**

# CALL TO EDUCATE CHILDREN

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**We call on governments , in consultation with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples and educators, to: Make age appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students...**

**Calls to Action #62, 63**

# CALL TO EDUCATE IN DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS

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**We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders.**

**Call to Action #64**

# CALL FOR A NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

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**We call upon the federal to establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance understanding of reconciliation.**

**Call to Action #65**

# CALL FOR MUSEUMS TO COMPLY WITH UN DECLARATION

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**We call on the federal government to provide funding to do a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine compliance with the UN Declaration...**

**Call to Action #67**

# CALL FOR ARTS COLLABORATION

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**We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects...**

**Call to Action #83**

# **CALLS FOR ABORIGINAL PROGRAMMING**

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**We call on upon the federal government to restore and increase funding to the cbc/Radio Canada, to enable support for reconciliation, and be properly reflective of diverse cultures, etc. of Aboriginal peoples...**

**We call upon APTN to support reconciliation....**

**Calls to Action #84, 85**

# CALL TO EDUCATE JOURNALISTS

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**We call upon Canadian journalism programs and media schools to require education for all students on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, The UN Declaration, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations.**

**Call to Action #86**

# CALL TO TELL NATIONAL STORY OF ABORIGINAL ATHLETES

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**We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration..., to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.**

**Call to Action #87**

# CALL FOR MORE INCLUSIVE NEWCOMER EDUCATION

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**We call upon the federal government to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of Residential Schools.**

**Call to Action #93**

# REMEMBER

It is not my right or prerogative to forgive what was done to my brothers, my sisters and my dearest friends as they must speak for themselves, and unfortunately, many of them are dead. Nevertheless, I dedicate this statement of reconciliation to their memory. I can speak for myself, Father. I am happy that my ancestors saw fit to bring their sacred beliefs underground when they were banned and persecuted, because of them and the Creator, the ways of my people are alive and in them I have found my answers.

**-Fred Kelly, Objibway of Onigaming,  
Residential School Survivor**

# CALL FOR PAPAL APOLOGY

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**Call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical and sexual abuse of Aboriginal children in Catholic-run schools...Similar to the apology to Irish victims and made within one year, in Canada.**

**Call to Action #58**

# CALL TO FUND HEALING

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**We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement to establish permanent funding for community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects, culture and language revitalization, education and relationship building projects and regional dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth.**

**Call to Action #61**

# CALL TO MARK 150TH

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**We call upon the federal government to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 2017 by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on reconciliation.**

**Call to Action #68**

# **CALLS FOR ARCHIVES TO COMPLY WITH UN DECLARATION AND BE ACCESSIBLE**

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**We call upon Library and Archives Canada to comply with the UN Declaration and the UN Joint-Orientlicher Principles, ensure record holdings on residential schools are accessible and commit more resources to public programming on residential schools...and to work with Canadian Association of Archivists...**

**Calls to Action #69, 70**

# CALLS TO ADDRESS SITUATION OF MISSING CHILDREN

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**We call upon all coroners and provincial vital statistics agencies to make documents on the deaths of the Aboriginal children in the schools available to the National Centre...to maintain a Death Register, ...an online registry of cemeteries,...to inform families of burial locations and to respond to their wishes,...to protect cemeteries and properly commemorate.**

**Calls to Action #71-76**

# CALLS TO PROVIDE ARCHIVES TO NATIONAL CENTRE AND FUND IT OVER SEVEN YEARS

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**We call upon all archives to provide records relevant to the history and legacy of the schools to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation...We call upon the Government of Canada to commit to making a funding contribution of \$10 million over seven years to the National Centre , plus additional amounts for community histories.**

**Calls to Action #77, 78**

# CALL FOR A RECONCILIATION FRAMEWORK FOR HERITAGE

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**We call upon the federal government to  
develop a reconciliation framework for  
Canadian heritage and commemoration...**

**Call to Action #79**

# CALL FOR NATIONAL STATUTORY HOLIDAY

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**We call upon the federal government to establish a statutory holiday, a National Day for truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families and communities, and ensure that public commemoration remains a vital part of reconciliation...**

**Call to Action #80**

# CALLS FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL MONUMENTS

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**We call upon governments to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential schools monument in Ottawa, and all provincial and territorial capitals, to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their communities...**

**Calls to Action #81, 82**

# RECOGNIZE

It is perhaps best to understand the Declaration and the right of self-determination it affirms as instruments of reconciliation... Self-determination requires confronting and reversing the legacies of empire, discrimination, and cultural suffocation. It does not do so to condone vengefulness or spite for past evils, or to foster divisiveness but rather to build a social and political order based on relations of mutual understanding and respect. That is what the right of self-determination of Indigenous peoples, and all others peoples is about.

**- James Anaya, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Indigenous peoples**

# CALL TO RECOGNIZE ABORIGINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

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**We call upon governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with Treaty and Aboriginal rights, the Constitution Act of 1982 and the UN Declaration...**

**Call to Action #42**

# CALLS TO ADOPT UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

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**We call upon governments to fully adopt and implement the UN Declaration as the framework for reconciliation...and call on the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the UN Declaration.**

**Calls to Action #43, 44**

# CALL TO DEVELOP A ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF RECONCILIATION

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**We call upon the Government of Canada to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown...building on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown...**

**Call to Action #45**

# CALL FOR A COVENANT OF RECONCILIATION

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**We call upon the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian society including reaffirmation of parties' commitment to reconciliation, repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty, adoption and implementation of the UN Declaration, support for renewal of Treaty relationships...**

**Call to Action #46**

# CALL FOR GOVERNMENTS TO REPUDIATE CONCEPTS USED TO JUSTIFY EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY

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**We call upon governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.**

**Call to Action #47**

# CALL FOR CHURCH PARTIES TO ADOPT AND COMPLY WITH UN DECLARATION

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**We call on the church parties and all faith groups to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms and standards of the UN as a framework for reconciliation...ensuring that institutions comply, respecting Indigenous rights to self-determination, engaging in ongoing dialogue and actions...And report by March 31, 2016....**

**Call to Action #48**

# CALL FOR FAITH GROUPS TO REPUDIATE CONCEPTS USED TO JUSTIFY EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY

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**We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.**

**Call to Action #49**

# CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIGENOUS LAW INSTITUTES

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**We call upon the federal to fund the establishment of Indigenous law institutes for the development, use, and understanding of Indigenous laws and access to justice in accordance with the unique cultures of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.**

**Call to Action #50**

# **CALLS FOR INTEGRITY IN LEGAL PROCESSES**

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**We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a policy of transparency by publishing legal opinions it develops and upon which it acts or intends to act, in regard to the scope and extent of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.**

**We call upon governments and the courts to adopt the legal principles that Aboriginal title claims are accepted once the Aboriginal claimant has established occupation...and having the burden of proving limitations shift to the party asserting such a limitation.**

**Calls to Action #51, 52**

# CALLS FOR A NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RECONCILIATION

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**We call upon the Parliament of Canada, in consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish a National Council for Reconciliation (NCR)--an independent, national, oversight body with membership of the Government of Canada and national Aboriginal organizations and consisting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members--...with multi-year funding, and data for annual reports. We call upon the prime minister of Canada to respond to the report of the NCR by issuing an annual “State of Aboriginal Peoples” report.**

**Calls to Action #53-56**

# CALL TO ENSURE PROTOCOLS FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

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**We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.**

**Call to Action #91**

# CALL TO THE CORPORATE SECTOR TO ADOPT THE UN DECLARATION

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**We call upon the corporate sector to adopt the UN Declaration as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources...**

**Call to Action #92**

# CALL TO REPLACE OATH OF CITIZENSHIP

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**We call upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of Citizenship with the following: I swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II... and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.**

**Call to Action #94**