



This policy principle was approved by the Board of Directors at their November 25th, 2018 meeting.

### **Policy A07: Implementing the Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

---

**Updated:** November 25th, 2018

**Expires:** November 25th, 2020

**WHEREAS** the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process began after the release of the “Statement of Reconciliation” released in 1998, which included a mandate of gathering the stories of survivors and acknowledging the damage of residential schools;

**WHEREAS** the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission currently forms the foundation of reconciliation efforts in Canada;

**WHEREAS** the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s final report concluded with 94 “Calls to Action” which set out to address the range of issues raised during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s process. These “Calls to Action” are divided into various areas including child welfare, health, justice, education, and more;

**WHEREAS** the “Calls to Action” regarding postsecondary education impact and relate to the advocacy work of the New Brunswick Student Alliance;

**WHEREAS** the creation of the participatory and inclusive work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s final report includes a variety of recommendations specific to ensuring that postsecondary education is accessible to Indigenous learners;

**WHEREAS** the New Brunswick Student Alliance possesses the ability to work closely with and support federal and local partners in regards to implementing these “Call to Action” at all relevant levels of government; and

**WHEREAS** the New Brunswick Student Alliance fully supports the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, particularly the “Calls to Action” geared towards ensuring that postsecondary education is accessible for Indigenous learners.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the New Brunswick Student Alliance support the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the implementation of the “Calls to Action” specific to improving postsecondary education at the provincial level;



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the New Brunswick Student Alliance support the work of federal partners and provincial partners striving to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission within their respective jurisdictions;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the New Brunswick Student Alliance gives considerable attention and support to the following “Calls to Action,” given the pertinence of their implementation in the postsecondary education system in New Brunswick, and their impact and relation to the advocacy work of the New Brunswick Student Alliance:

- Call 16: We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages;
- Call 17: We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver’s licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers;
- Call 18: We call upon the federal, provincial, 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, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties;
- Call 28: We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti- racism;
- Call 43: We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation;
- Call 57: We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills- based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism;
- Call 62: We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:
  - ii. Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.



- iv. Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.
- Call 63: We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:
  - ii. Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
  - iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
  - iv. Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.
- Call 86: 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 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the New Brunswick Student Alliance advocate that the Government of New Brunswick implement a “Reconciliation through Postsecondary Education” fund to support reconciliation initiatives and programming at postsecondary institutions across the province; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the New Brunswick Student Alliance commit to further research on the mechanisms which strive to promote the goals of reconciliation within the postsecondary education sector in New Brunswick.