



Presentation
to the

Decolonizing Learning Journey
Webinar

Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia
and Unama'ki College

Senator Dan Christmas

October 6, 2020

What is your role in Reconciliation?

In 2018, an Angus Reid poll found that:

Canadians are deeply divided on Indigenous Issues

But how well informed are Canadians about Indigenous issues?

8% Good Understanding

27% Know Fair Amount

48% Know a bit

17% Don't know much

NOW OR NEVER:

AN **URGENT** CALL TO

ACTION

FOR **NOVA SCOTIANS**



NOVA SCOTIA

SHAPING OUR NEW
ECONOMY TOGETHER

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Now or Never

- Travelled across the Province of Nova Scotia
- But what we heard really surprised us
- Making recommendations to the Province – not enough
- A Vision was cast & 19 Goals were set

Now or Never

A painting of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, a reindeer stands on the left, and a person is visible in the middle ground. The background shows a vast, snow-covered field under a pale sky. The overall tone is cold and serene.

12 Game Changers

- Needed different ways of thinking
- Needed significant changes in attitude & outlooks
- Addressed to the general public – to all Nova Scotians

**Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada:
Calls to Action**



TRC Calls to Action



94 Calls to Action

- Legacy
 - Child Welfare
 - Education
 - Language & Culture
 - Health
 - Justice

TRC Calls to Action

94 Calls to Action

Reconciliation

- Canadian Governments & UNDRIP
- Royal Proclamation & Covenant of Reconciliation
- Settlement Agreement Parties & UNDRIP
- Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System
- National Council for Reconciliation
- Professional Development and Training for Public Servants

TRC Calls to Action

94 Calls to Action

- Reconciliation
 - Church Apologies & Reconciliation
 - Education for Reconciliation
 - Youth Programs
 - Museums & Archives
 - Missing Children & Burial Information
 - National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action

94 Calls to Action

Reconciliation

- Commemoration
- Media & Reconciliation
- Sports & Reconciliation
- Business & Reconciliation
- Newcomers to Canada



What are the TRC's Game Changers?

- What are the shifts in attitude?
- What are the different ways of thinking?
- Is this only for federal, provincial, municipal & Indigenous governments?
- Do ordinary Canadians have a role & responsibility?

Game Changer #1

Indigenous Peoples can look after themselves

Many Non-Indigenous Peoples believe otherwise

- Racial, cultural & religious superiority
- Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*
- *Indian Act*, IRS Policy, 60s Scoop
- Today's child welfare crisis

Game Changer #1

TRC stresses this point:

- Establish own child welfare agencies (CTA #4)
- Language & culture best managed by Indigenous Peoples (CTA #14)
- Degrees & diplomas in Aboriginal languages (CTA #16)
- Implement Aboriginal justice systems (CTA #42)
- Establish Indigenous law institutes (CTA #50)

Game Changer #2

Indigenous Peoples should enjoy the same quality of life as other Canadians

- Eliminate educational & employment gaps (CTA #7)
- Close gaps in health outcomes (CTA #19)
- Eliminate overrepresentation in custody (CTA #30 & #38)
- Equal access to jobs, training & education opportunities (CTA #92)

Game Changer #3

Non-Indigenous Peoples to strive for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect for Indigenous Peoples

Cultural competency training & skills based training (anti-racism):

- Healthcare professionals (CTA #24)
- Lawyers (CTA #27)
- Public Servants (CTA #57)
- Faith Leaders (CTA #60)
- Teachers (CTA #62)
- Journalists (CTA #86)
- Coaches, Trainers & Sports Officials (CTA #90)
- Corporate Management & Staff (CTA #92)

Game Changer #3

Core Intercultural Understandings:

- History of Aboriginal Peoples including IRS
- UNDRIP
- Treaties & Aboriginal Rights
- Indigenous law
- Aboriginal – Crown relations

Game Changer #4

Our relationship to be based on the principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect and shared responsibility

- Indigenous Peoples to become full partners in Confederation (CTA #45)
- Renewal & maintenance of treaty relationships (CTA #46)
- Repudiate European concepts of sovereignty over Indigenous lands and people (CTA #47 & 49)

What is your role in Reconciliation?

- #1 Appreciate that Indigenous People can look after themselves
- #2 Appreciate that Indigenous People should enjoy the same quality of life as other Canadians
- #3 That non-Indigenous Peoples should strive for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect
- #4 That our relationship be based on mutual recognition, mutual respect and shared responsibility

A painting of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, two figures are crouching on the snow, one on the left and one on the right. In the middle ground, a reindeer stands facing right. In the background, another reindeer is visible. The scene is set in a snowy, mountainous area. The overall tone is cold and serene.

Wela'liog

Thank you