



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Prayers of Petition

*Based on the Recommendations
of the Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada:
Calls to Action*



Prayers of Petition

Based on the Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

(The prayers below reflect 94 Recommendations that flow from this report)

Legacy

Child Welfare

1. That members of our Federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments will commit to work together in order to reduce the number of Aboriginal children in care, we pray to the Lord...
2. In order to improve the effectiveness of the care of Aboriginal children in care (First Nations, Inuit, and Metis), we ask that annual reports be made public so that services are reviewed and improved, we pray to the Lord...
3. In memory of Jordan River Anderson, a young boy from Norway House, Cree Nation in Manitoba: Jordan remained in Hospital for over two years where he died, because Federal, provincial, and territorial governments could not agree on who would cover his at-home care – we seek that the child-first principle, known as Jordan Principle be upheld for all First Nation's children, we pray to the Lord...
4. That our Federal government will enact Aboriginal child-welfare legislation ensuring national standards for

Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases. We pray to the Lord...

5. That our federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families, we pray to the Lord...

Education

6. That the Government of Canada, as a democratic society that values children, repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada which still allows corporal punishment of children, we pray to the Lord...
7. That the federal government develop, along with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, we pray to the Lord...
8. That the federal government create an equal and inclusive system for federal education funding for First National children both on reserves and off reserves, we pray to the Lord...
9. That the federal government prepare and publish annual reports comparing funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves as well as educational and income attainments of Aboriginal people in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people, we pray to the Lord...
10. That the federal Government will create new Aboriginal educational legislation with the full and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples, that will ensure equal funding, culturally appropriate curricula, protection and teaching of

Aboriginal languages, and involvement of parents in the educational of their children, we pray to the Lord...

11. That the federal government provide adequate funding for all First Nation students seeking a post-secondary education, we pray to the Lord...
12. That all levels of government including Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families, we pray to the Lord...

Language and Culture

13. That our federal government acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights, we pray to the Lord...
14. That our federal government enact an Aboriginal Languages Act to preserve Aboriginal languages as a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society and provide funding and management of this by Aboriginal peoples, we pray to the Lord...
15. That our federal government establish, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, an Aboriginal Language Commissioner to promote Aboriginal languages and to ensure the adequacy of federal funding for such language initiatives, we pray to the Lord...
16. That our post-secondary institutions create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages, we pray to the Lord...
17. That all levels of government enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by

the residential school system and waive all administrative costs for this work for a period of 5 years, we pray to the Lord...

Health

18. That all levels of government, including Aboriginal governments acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is the direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people identified in international law, constitutional law and under the Treaties, we pray to the Lord...
19. That our federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples establish measurable goals to identify health outcomes and close the gaps that exist in meeting these goals, we pray to the Lord...
20. That the federal government recognize, respect and address the distinct health needs of the Metis, Inuit and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples, we pray to the Lord...
21. That the federal government provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to help address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harms caused by residential schools and ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority, we pray to the Lord...
22. That those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system, recognise the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients, we pray to the Lord...

23. That all levels of government work to increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field, we pray to the Lord....
24. That all levels of government ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities, we pray to the Lord...
25. That all levels of government provide cultural competency training for all health-care professionals, we pray to the Lord...
26. That medical and nursing schools in Canada require all students to learn about Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights and Indigenous teachings and practices, we pray to the Lord...

Justice

27. That the federal government establish a written policy that reaffirms the independence of the RCMP to investigate crimes in which the government has its own interests as potential or real party in civil litigation, we pray to the Lord...
28. That all levels of government review and amend their respective statutes of limitations allowing legal action of historical abuse brought by Aboriginal people to proceed, we pray to the Lord...
29. That the Federation of Law Societies of Canada ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training in dealing with issues of Aboriginal people,

including the history of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and an understanding of Indigenous law, we pray to the Lord...

30. That all parties, especially the federal government, work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues settled expeditiously, we pray to the Lord...
31. That all levels of government commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next ten years, and that annual reports be provided to monitor and evaluate progress in this matter, we pray to the Lord...
32. That realistic and alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders be provided by all levels of government with sufficient and stable funding to assist these offenders and respond to underlying causes of offending, we pray to the Lord...
33. That the federal government amend the Criminal code to allow judges to depart from mandatory minimum sentences and restrictions of the use of conditional sentences, we pray to the Lord...
34. That all levels of government in Canada set as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and develop with Aboriginal people, preventative programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner, we pray to the Lord...
35. That all levels of government in Canada undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address

the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, we pray to the Lord...

36. That our federal government eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system, we pray to the Lord...
37. That all levels of government work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of being sexually abused, we pray to the Lord...
38. That the federal government provide more supports for Aboriginal programming in halfway houses and parole services, we pray to the Lord...
39. That all levels of government commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade, we pray to the Lord...
40. That our federal government develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including homicide and family violence, we pray to the Lord...
41. That all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific-victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms, we pray to the Lord...
42. That all levels of government in Canada, in consultation with Aboriginal organization appoint a public inquiry that would seek to identify causes of and remedies for the disproportionate numbers of Aboriginal women and girls who have been missing and murdered, and the links that

can be made to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools, we pray to the Lord..

43. That all levels of government in Canada commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with treaties and rights of Aboriginal people, the Constitution Act of 1982, and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples endorsed by Canada in 2012, we pray to the Lord...

Reconciliation

44. That all levels of government in Canada, fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation, we pray to the Lord...
45. That the Government of Canada develop a national action plan, strategies and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we pray to the Lord...
46. That the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, jointly develop with Aboriginals People a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between the Aboriginal peoples and the Crown, we pray to the Lord...
47. That all the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian society, we pray to the Lord...
48. That all levels of government 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, we pray to you the Lord...

Settlement Agreement Parties and the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples

49. That all church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a framework for reconciliation, we pray to you God...

Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System

50. That the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal organizations, 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 people in Canada, we pray to you God...

51. That the Government of Canada, as an obligation of its fiduciary responsibility, 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 pray to you God...

52. That the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments and the courts adopt legal principles establishing Aboriginal title claims once the Aboriginal

claimant has established occupation of the territory at a particular point in time, and that the burden of proof on rights arising from the existence of this title shifts to the party asserting such a limitation, we pray to you God...

National Council for Reconciliation

53. That the Parliament of Canada, in consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, enact legislation to establish a National Council for Reconciliation, as a national independent oversight body, with membership jointly appointed by the Government of Canada and national Aboriginal organization, we pray to you God...
54. That the Government of Canada provide multi-year funding for the National Council for Reconciliation to ensure it has the financial, human and technical resources required to conduct its work, including the endowment of a National Reconciliation Trust to advance the cause of reconciliation, we pray to you God...
55. That all levels of government provide annual reports on any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation, so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation, we pray to you God...
56. That the prime minister of Canada formally respond to the report of the National Council for Reconciliation by issuing an annual "State of Aboriginal Peoples" report which would outline the government's plans for advancing the cause of reconciliation, we pray to you God...

Professional Development and Training for Public Servants

57. That all levels of government provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal people in Canada, the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal law, and that this include developing skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution and anti-racism, we pray to you God...
58. That our Pope issue an apology to Survivors and their families and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical and sexual abuse of First Nation, Inuit and Metis children in Catholic-run residential schools, we pray to you God...
59. That all church parties who are part of the Settlement Agreement develop on-going education to ensure that their respective congregations learn about the church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school student and their families, and communities were necessary, we pray to you God...
60. That leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, and other religious training centre, 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, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, to prevent future conflicts and spiritual violence, we pray to you God...

61. That church parties to the Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with Survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects, culture and language revitalization projects, educational and relationship-building projects, and regional dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth to discuss Indigenous spirituality, self-determination and reconciliation, we pray to you God...

Education for Reconciliation

62. That all governments in Canada, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators create curriculum that will be mandatory for all levels of education from Kindergarten to Grade Twelve, to tell the stories of residential schools, the contribution both historical and contemporary, of Aboriginal people to Canada, we pray to you God...

63. That funding be provided to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms, we pray to you God...

64. That necessary funding be given to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms, we pray to you God...

65. That governments establish a senior level position such as an assistant deputy minister or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education, we pray to you God...

66. That the Council of Ministers of Education maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues such as implementing new curriculum and learning resources,

sharing best practices on teaching related to residential schools and Aboriginal history, building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect, and addressing teaching training needs to help this, we pray to you God...

67. That all levels of government provide public funds to denominational schools to address the need for education on comparative religions and include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders, we pray to you God...

68. That the federal government, through the Social sciences and Humanities Research Council, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples and post-secondary institutions and educators, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance the understanding of reconciliation, we pray to you God...

Youth Programs

69. That the federal government establish multi-year funding for community based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation and establish a national network to share information and best practices, we pray to you God...

Museums and Archives

70. That the federal government provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to review policies and best practices to ensure compliance with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and to make

recommendations where changes are needed, we pray to you God...

71. That the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association, mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 2017, by supporting commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation, we pray to you God...
72. That Library and Archives Canada fully adopt and implement *Un Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and *UN Joint-Orentlicher Principles*, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in residential schools, we pray to you God...
73. That all public record holdings related to residential schools are accessible to the public, we pray to you God...
74. That federal government ask for a full report with recommendations be made by Canadian Museums and Archives, to create a reconciliation framework for Canadian archives, we pray to you God...

Missing Children and Burial Information

75. That all records on the deaths of Aboriginal children in the care of residential schools authorities be made known to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and that a register of these death be maintained, we pray to you God...

76. That the federal government work with churches, Aboriginals communities and former residential school students to establish and maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries, including where possible plot maps showing the location of deceased residential school children, and to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of child's burial location, we pray to you God...
77. That all parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating and protecting residential school cemeteries develop strategies to ensure that the Aboriginal communities most affected lead the development of these strategies, that information will be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers, and that Aboriginal protocols be respected involving any investigation of a cemetery site, we pray to you God...

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

78. That all levels of governments and community archives work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system and provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, we pray to you God...
79. That the Government of Canada commit to making a funding contribution of \$10million over seven years, to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation plus additional monies to assist communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experience, and their involvement in truth, healing and reconciliation, we pray to you God...

Commemoration

80. That the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal organizations, and the arts community develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage to commemorate residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools and the contribution of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history, we pray to you God...
81. That the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour all those affected by the residential schools and ensure that public commemoration of this history and legacy remain a vital component of the reconciliation process, we pray to you God...
82. That the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations and other parties to the Settlement Agreement commission and install a Residential School Monument in Ottawa to honour Survivors and the all the children who were lost to their families and communities, we pray to you God...
83. That provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations and other parties to the Settlement Agreements, to commission install in each capital a Residential School monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities, we pray to you God...
84. That the Canada Council for the Arts, establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-

Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process, we pray to you God...

Media and Reconciliation

85. That the federal government restore and increase funding to the CBC/Radio-Canada to enable Canada's national public broadcaster to support reconciliation and reflect the diverse cultures, languages and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples, we pray to you God...
86. That the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, an independent non-profit broadcaster with programming by, for, and about Aboriginal peoples, support reconciliation, and find ways to educate and the Canadian public and connect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, we pray to you God...

Sports and Reconciliation

87. That all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in our history, we pray to you God...
88. That all levels of government ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games with financial support, we pray to you God...
89. That the federal government amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that Aboriginal peoples are included in all amendments, we pray to you God...

90. That the federal government ensure that national sports policies, programs and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, we pray to you God...

91. That all officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am and Commonwealth games ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of the planning and participating in such events, we pray to you God

Business and Reconciliation

92. That the corporate sector in Canada adopt the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a reconciliation framework and apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources, we pray to you God...

Newcomers to Canada

93. That the federal government, in collaboration with the national Aboriginal organizations, 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, we pray to you God...

94. That the Government of Canada change the Oath of Citizenship to include faithful observation of the laws of Canada including the Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, we pray to you God...