



TRUTH & RECONCILIATION PLAN

FOPL, as a provincial federation, made up of Ontario library system members, has the opportunity to be a leader in Truth and Reconciliation work within our provincial library system. This document outlines areas where FOPL can be a catalyst for change and disruptor of current mores. Additionally, this document will provide a shortlist of efforts our library members may wish to address in their own systems.



TRUTH & RECONCILIATION PLAN

In 2015 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission published their 94 Calls to Action. While this document did not have libraries as their intended audience, libraries and associations across the country have been struggling to find ways to provide meaningful mechanisms to support these calls.

The FOPL Truth and Reconciliation Plan considers the 94 Calls to Action from a library service lens, and provides recommendations to our Member Libraries. Additionally, the FOPL Board has used this same lens to determine how we can be a leader in advocacy and in supporting our members in their reconciliation efforts.

FOPL RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN 2022 & 2023

03

Action	Status
Prepare a Strategic Plan and Annual Workplans with a focus on Indigenous librarianship needs.	
Establish a FOPL Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement and open all meetings with the statement.	Completed Updated March 2023
Establish the Indigenous Library Partners Working Group who will continue to address ongoing needs which support public libraries on-reserve, Indigenous librarians, and public library systems work around Indigenous matters and truth and reconciliation.	Est. September 2021 Work ongoing
Hold member caucus meetings where FNPL CEOs can express the needs and concerns, informing the advocacy initiatives of FOPL.	Semi-Annually Most recently March 2023
Advocate for the provincial government to properly fund our current public libraries on reserve so each CEO receives a full-time living wage through provincial funding.	Began with the 2023-24 Provincial Budget
Advocate for Indigenous communities to have equal access to libraries in Ontario.	Little NHL March 2023
When developing materials for reserve communities, use Indigenous languages where appropriate. [Calls 13, 14]	In 2023 Budget
Provide an in-service for member libraries on UNDRIP and how the best practices and principles can be incorporated in public libraries. [Call 43]	Planned Fall 2023
Provide in-servicing for member libraries on reconciliation activities. [Call 57]	Fall 2022 Available on website
Provide member libraries with resources on reconciliation activities including info graphics, Book reviews, etc. [Calls 63, 80]	Planned June 2023 Blog
Be an active member of National Indigenous Knowledge & Language Alliance (NIKLA).	Joined 2022 Ongoing membership
Endorse the CFLA Truth & Reconciliation Committee Report.	Completed

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE CALLS TO ACTION

04

CALL TO ACTION 10

We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation. ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates. iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula. iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses. v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems. vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children. vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.

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Provide in servicing for members.



Member Libraries

1. Support local community education with resources and curriculum materials available in the public library. 2. If available, open local history collections content to educators through edukits.



CALL TO ACTION 13

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

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When developing materials for reserve communities, use Indigenous languages where appropriate.



Member Libraries

1. Provide multi-language collections. 2. Support community entities to provide Indigenous language programs onsite.

CALL TO ACTION 14

We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:

i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them. ii. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties. iii. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation. iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities. v. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.

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When developing materials for reserve communities, use Indigenous languages where appropriate.

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Member Libraries

1. Provide multi-language collections. 2. Support community entities to provide Indigenous language programs onsite. 3. Provide information to the community on UNDRIP and treaties, with a focus on local communities.



CALL TO ACTION 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.

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Provide an in-service in 2023 on UNDRIP and how the best practices and principles can be incorporated in public libraries.



Member Libraries

1. Include UNDRIP best practices and principles in library planning and programming. 2. Adopt an Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement which addresses treaty, ceded/unceded and traditional territory where the library is located.



CALL TO ACTION 63

07

We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including: i. Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools. 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.

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Provide in-servicing for member libraries on reconciliation activities.



Member Libraries

1. Provide accurate collections which can support curriculum and personal education and awareness of contemporary and historical Indigenous communities and legacy issues. 2. Provide curriculum supports. 3. Provide programs that support for intercultural understanding, empathy, mutual respect, and understanding of historical issues. 4. Invite Indigenous speakers, elders, storytellers, authors, etc to hold events, workshops or speaker series.

CALL TO ACTION 67

We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to make recommendations.

FOPL

Provide in servicing for members.

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Member Libraries

1. For GLAM sites, work with museum associations to advance museum practices surrounding Indigenous content.





CALL TO ACTION 77

We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to 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 to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

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Provide in servicing for members on integrated and decolonized collections.



Member Libraries

As a public sector representing our local community histories, collect, make available, and support the local research needs of those participating in personal research pertaining to residential school systems and truth and reconciliation.

CALL TO ACTION 80

We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

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Provide resources to libraries for Reconciliation Day including info graphics, Book reviews, etc.

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Member Libraries

Commemorate, celebrate, program, and conduct programs pertaining to truth and reconciliation, both on the National Day of Reconciliation and throughout the year.



CALL TO ACTION 93

We call upon 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.

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As a National Indigenous Knowledge & Language Alliance (NIKLA) Institutional Member, promote the activities of NIKLA's Respectful Terminology Platform Project.



Member Libraries

When providing newcomer collections and resources, ensure Indigenous materials are part of those resources or cross cataloged in a way that will be easily found by newcomers.



LET'S TAKE ACTION

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ONE VOICE FOR ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In 2022 the Indigenous Libraries Partnership Working Group began to look at the role FOPL could take in Truth and Reconciliation within our provincial library systems. The culminating efforts are this document, approved by the Board February 2023.

Members:

- Feather Maracle (Chair), Six Nations Public Library
- Kelly Bernstein, County of Brant Public Library
- Kathleen Copegog, Beausoleil First Nations Public Library
- Kathy Fisher, Ottawa Public Library
- Alicia Subnaik Kilgour, Niagara Falls Public Library
- Dr. Sabrina Redwing Saunders, The Blue Mountains Public Library
- Aly Veliji, Toronto Public Library



P.O. Box 3285, Meaford Stn Main, ON N4L 1A5



(647) 376-3048



www.fopl.ca