A Reconciliation Initiative in a Post-Secondary Institution

2016
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What Are Truth and Reconciliation Commissions

- Human rights abuse; trials; apologies; truth commissions; truth and reconciliation commissions

- Transitional justice

- Transformational justice – “change”; transforming societies; institutional and structural changes

Reconciliation in Canada
What are Truth and Reconciliation Commissions

- Process to lay the foundations for forgiveness through the establishment of the truth of atrocities;
- acknowledgement of the harm;
- and provision of appropriate forms of justice that will see the restoration of respectful relationships.
Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- Canadian TRC – hybrid of state-centered and victim-centered commissions
- Change the systems of domination
- Transform inter-group relations
- (1) Reconciliation with the state/society
- (2) Reconciliation within Indigenous communities
Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada

- In order to address historic wrongs; especially the residential school system
- “establishing new relationships embedded in mutual recognition and respect that will forge a brighter future”
- Aboriginal Healing Foundation, 1998
- Residential School settlement agreement; 2006
- Official apology; 2008
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission; 2009
- Public work for consciousness raising, public education, healing, restitution, and reconciliation
Residential Schools

- Canada’s Indian residential school system 1892 - 1996
- Government, church and education organizations collaborated
- Removal of children from their families and communities
- To “kill the Indian in the child”
- Referred to as “cultural genocide”
- Also was psychological, physical, and sexual abuse
- Over 3000 children died
- Inadequate education
- Long lasting social problems
TRC Calls to Action

- CTA Legacy:
  - child welfare; education; language & culture; health; justice;

- CTA Reconciliation:
  - UNDRIP; Royal Proclamation; legal system; National Council for Reconciliation; public servants; churches; educators; museums; media; sports; business; newcomers
  - burial sites of missing children; National Centre for T & R; commemoration
TRC Calls to Action for Post Secondary Institutions

- Close education gaps
- Degrees in Indigenous languages
- Curriculum on Indigenous history, rights, treaties, residential schools
- Include Indigenous knowledge and pedagogy
- Teacher training needs
- National research program
What is Happening With Post Secondary Institutions

- Universities Canada – 97 uni’s adopted Principles to improve Indigenous post-secondary education
- Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences -
- Adopted Touchstone of Hope principles and processes
- U of W mandatory course
- Lakehead U – Chair of Truth and Reconciliation
- Colleges and Institutes of Canada – Indigenous Education Protocol for Colleges and Institutes
Banff Centre – Project Indigenize and a Plan to Implement the TRC Calls to Action

- Create an ethical organization and a just society
- Take the TRC calls to action seriously
- LP – ILM reciprocity (CBI – Wise Practices – Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing)
- TBC institutional commitment – Framework - Plan
- Reconciliation Summit, Oct 2016
- Lead reconciliation in Bow Valley and beyond
- Buffalo Treaty – American Bison Conference
What Can I Do?

- Review the Calls to Action and identify those that could apply to Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity
- Continue to learn more about Indigenous history in Canada, but especially of our region
- Own a call to action – learn more about what you can do