

**Yukon Government's Deputy Ministers' Report to the Premier on
the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report**

"Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future"

January 12, 2016

Yukon Government's Deputy Ministers' Report to the Premier on the TRC Report

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INTRODUCTION

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report entitled “Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future”, released in June, 2015, calls on governments, parties to the residential school system and others to take action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance Canadian reconciliation.

The Government of Yukon acknowledges that Aboriginal people in Yukon, and their descendants, continue to be affected by the devastating impacts of the Indian Residential School system. The Yukon government has also indicated that addressing this legacy is a significant priority. The residential school system is part of our shared history; the work called for by the TRC is part of our shared future.

COLLABORATION WITH FIRST NATIONS

In working toward reconciliation, it is essential that there be collaboration with First Nations to plan the process for responding to the TRC report, discuss and assess the actions each party can take and set priorities. To this end, Yukon First Nation Chiefs have been invited to meet with Yukon government Cabinet ministers to discuss how to work together and to explore respective next steps.

In order to support Yukon government’s participation in that collaborative planning process with First Nations, deputy ministers were tasked with reviewing the TRC report, assessing work completed to date and identifying areas where more work is required.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Work Underway or Completed

To assist in identifying opportunities for action as we go forward, it is important to have an understanding of the work currently underway or completed. The Yukon government, in conjunction with First Nations, has undertaken many initiatives as part of ongoing operations that are responsive to the 22 themes set out in the TRC report. For example, First Nations and the Yukon government are working together to develop school curricula on residential schools, address the overrepresentation of First Nation people in the criminal justice system (offenders and victims), and directly involve First Nation governments in the child welfare system. However, we recognize that more work can and should be done.

Yukon government and Yukon First Nations have also made strides beyond some of the TRC’s specific calls to action through the Final and Self-government Agreements. Yukon is at the forefront of land claims and self-government in Canada. Eleven of the fourteen Yukon First Nations have settled their land claims and are self-governing, which account for more than half of all self-governing First Nations in Canada. The agreements contain arrangements related to financial compensation, land, harvesting and other matters. They also enable innovative government to government relationships. They help preserve First Nations culture and strengthen the social, political and economic fabric of the territory. Under these agreements, First Nations have the power

to enact laws for the provision of programs and services related to Aboriginal languages, cultural beliefs, health care, social welfare, placement of children, administration of justice and education programs as examples.

This report includes a narrative summary of some of the work underway or completed organized according to the 22 themes in the TRC report. It is recognized that this is not necessarily an exhaustive inventory but is a listing of key initiatives undertaken or completed.

WORK UNDERWAY OR COMPLETED

The TRC report “calls to action” are organized into 22 themes. To assist in identifying opportunities for action as we go forward, it is important to have an understanding of the work currently underway or completed. While not an exhaustive list, key work underway, planned or completed is summarized below according to the 22 themes. Note that of the 94 calls to action in the TRC report, only 32 include calls for action by provincial or territorial governments.

A. CHILD WELFARE

Lead: Government of Canada, Yukon Health and Social Services

Calls to Action: 1-5

Summary: Calls to action 1 through 5 relate to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care, keeping families together and ensuring children in care are placed in culturally appropriate environments. Actions include training for social workers, reporting on children in care, recognizing Aboriginal solutions for family healing and affirming the right of Aboriginal governments to maintain their own child-welfare agencies.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Reporting on children in care:
 - The *Child and Family Services Act* provides two reporting mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the services delivered under the Act: annual reporting on the services delivered under the Act and a recurring five-year review of the Act, which must include representation from Yukon First Nations on the review panel.
 - Health and Social Services regularly responds to First Nations requests for information on First Nation children in the child welfare system.
 - Health and Social Services regularly reports to and makes presentations to the Council of Yukon First Nations on current and planned initiatives, programs and practices related to child welfare.
- Reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care:
 - The *Child and Family Services Act* allows for social workers to support families and address child welfare concerns using the alternative response options in the Act without conducting a full investigation. Social workers work with families and First Nations to ensure children remain with their family whenever possible.
 - The *Child and Family Services Act* outlines the priorities for out-of-home care placements. The first priority is to place the child with extended family; where this

is not possible, the priority is to place the child within their First Nation community or with another First Nation (s.89).

- When Family and Children's Services is involved with families or children who are First Nation citizens, the First Nation is contacted, and is involved in planning and decision-making throughout Family and Children's Services involvement with the child.
- Health and Social Services has established a Youth Transition to Adulthood Committee, which includes representatives from First Nations, to advise policy, program and practice changes aimed at better-supporting youth who are leaving the child welfare system.
- Keeping children in their communities or in culturally appropriate settings:
 - The *Child and Family Services Act* requires that every child in care has an individualized plan for maintaining their cultural heritage.
 - Youth group homes operate a cultural committee with First Nations representation that identifies and plans cultural activities and learning for children in care. Cultural plans and programming include traditions and activities as well as connecting with community members and Elders.
- Including Aboriginal perspectives in planning:
 - The *Child and Family Services Act* established a cooperative planning process for Child Welfare issues that involves First Nations in planning and decision-making for families and children who are members of their First Nation. This may include the First Nations providing support services to assist families.
 - A Memorandum of Agreement has been developed with Kwanlin Dün First Nation to support cooperative work on child welfare matters; the memorandum is also intended to serve as a model for developing cooperative work with other First Nations.
 - Policy and program developments are undertaken by Health and Social Services in partnership or in collaboration with Council of Yukon First Nations' Health and Social Directors and with non-member First Nations.
- Developing culturally appropriate programs for Aboriginal people:
 - Health and Social Services funds seven family support worker positions through contribution agreements with seven Yukon First Nations (the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Liard First Nation, Ross River Dena Council, Selkirk First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Kwanlin Dün First Nation).
 - Health and Social Services is supporting the development of an off-site treatment program for youth.

B. EDUCATION

Lead: Education

Calls to Action: 6-12

Supporting: Public Service Commission, Executive Council Office, Women's Directorate

Summary: Calls to action 6-12 are directed at the federal government. However, many actions have been taken by the Yukon government with Yukon First Nations that address these calls. The Education theme speaks to eliminating educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, developing culturally appropriate curricula, protecting languages and creating culturally appropriate early education programs. Yukon's Department of Education has committed to working collaboratively with all Yukon First Nations to address the needs of their students throughout the territory. The department acknowledges that, though significant work has been done, much still needs to be accomplished to improve educational outcomes for First Nations learners.

Education also acknowledges that an approach to improving student outcomes includes:

- working globally with the First Nations Education Council and individually with each First Nation;
- involving First Nations in the planning and design of curriculum and directions;
- increasing the number of First Nations educators in the system;
- training all staff to understand both First Nations perspectives and the legacy of residential schools; and
- working with Health and Social Services and Justice to develop wrap-around approaches to meeting the needs of First Nations children.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Education's commitment was enhanced by participation in the June 2015 Council of Ministers of Education Conference in Yellowknife. At the conference the ministers, with strong support from Yukon's Minister of Education, reaffirmed their commitment to eliminating the gap in education achievement between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Ministers also encouraged the federal government to work collaboratively with Aboriginal communities and organizations to address the financial and governance issues faced by on-reserve schools, for which it has fiduciary responsibility.
- Yukon had a significant contingent of First Nations' representatives, including teachers, an administrator and an Elder, at the symposium that was held in conjunction with the Council of Ministers of Education Conference. A commitment was made by the ministers and the symposium participants to reconvene in a year to look at progress made by each province or territory.
- Gaps in learning outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students:
 - In 2014, a tripartite Joint Education *Action Plan: A Blueprint to Strengthen Our Roots and Close the Education Gap* was signed by Yukon First Nations, the Yukon government and the Government of Canada. The plan spans the years 2014 to 2024, and was the result of a number of meetings, education events, current research and recommendations from historic documents. An implementation plan for 2015/16 is

complete and work is underway. Priority areas for work this year include, but are not limited to:

- establishing Yukon First Nations mandatory cultural awareness opportunities designed and delivered by First Nation people for all educators who interact with the school community, including school councils and the Department of Education;
 - developing a template to be used in conjunction with school reviews to determine the extent to which Yukon schools are culturally inclusive;
 - increasing opportunities and supports to foster First Nation language fluency and rejuvenate language and culture;
 - demonstrating accountability through the development of an annual “ How are we doing report” that reports on the achievement of First Nation students; and
 - involving parents at all levels and to participate actively at the schools, on school councils, in school growth planning and as part of school review teams.
- A Yukon Literacy Strategy developed in partnership with Yukon First Nations (and literacy stakeholders) is nearly complete. Aboriginal priorities are represented in the strategy. The strategy will be implemented from early learning to post-secondary school.
 - An early intervention pilot literacy project is underway as result of the Collective Agreement with the teachers. The project goal is to improve the literacy skills of students by the end of grade 2. The pilot is at 4 schools with significant First Nation populations and, if successful, will be expanded to other schools.
 - The New Vision for Education was launched October 7, 2015. Partners in education, with significant representation from First Nations, came together to begin the process of curriculum redesign in Yukon. The first steps in this new vision process will be visits to all school communities including staff, parents and First Nations to ascertain both barriers to success and strategies to move forward. Priorities in the redesign will be:
 - creating flexible pathways to success for all students, including on the land and external learning as credits;
 - embedding Yukon context and First Nations perspectives in all areas of curriculum; and
 - teaching the essential skills needed to be successful on the land or nationally and internationally.
 - The Rural Experiential Model (REM) has been a successful strategy to bring grade 10 to 12 students from the rural communities, many of whom are First Nations, together to spend a week earning a secondary credit in an area of their interest. Experts from across Yukon provide learning experiences for students that are not possible in small rural schools. Sessions include hair dressing, small machines, archery, drama and dance, carving, and on-the-land learning.

- The Department of Education is currently evaluating the financial assistance program for post-secondary students and looking at the issues that cause some First Nations students to need upgrading before they move on to post—secondary programs.
- Employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people:
 - Public Service Commission oversees the Final Agreement-Representative Public Service Plan (FA-RPSP) that seeks to close the employment gaps for Aboriginals in the Yukon government public service.
 - Advanced Education, in partnership with Yukon College and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, is working on a Memorandum of Understanding to expand the goals related to Apprenticeship and Trade, First Nations Language and Culture and support for disengaged students.
 - Advanced Education's Comprehensive Skills and Trades Training Strategy under the Labour Market Framework for Yukon, identified Aboriginal peoples as one of the 5 priority under-represented groups in Yukon's labour market.
 - Advanced Education supports two employment services projects driven by Aboriginal priorities. Both of these projects provide employment.
 - Skookum Jim Friendship Centre will receive \$935,925 between 2014 and 2017 to run a Youth Employment Centre and community outreach service to provide youth, 16 to 30, with skills, knowledge and work experience to participate in the work force.
 - Education contributed \$250,000 to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation's House of Learning to support the design and construction of an expansion to the building. The House of Learning provides: education upgrading; employment and trade-specific training, certifications and tickets; career and personal counselling; and personal growth programs. Between April 2015 and March 2018, Education will provide more than \$500,000 to the House of Learning Education and Employment Training Program. Education also provided more than \$70,000 to the House of Learning in 2014 to assist 12 participants prepare for entry to employment and obtain the training and skills required to find or maintain employment.
 - Economic Development provided \$20,000 from the Community Development Fund towards the implementation of the Carpenter Apprenticeship Training Program for Carcross/Tagish First Nation. (2013/14)
 - Between 2014 and 2016, the Women's Directorate provided \$100,000 in funding to the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle to deliver an Aboriginal Women's Leadership program designed to coach and mentor Aboriginal women in three key areas: education, career path, and culture.
- Culturally relevant curricula and materials available in Yukon schools:
 - C.H.A.O.S. 9 is an experiential learning program that integrates First Nations traditional teachings, culture, knowledge and technologies when teaching English

- Grade 9, Social Studies Grade 9, Ancestral Technology Grade 9 and Outdoor Education Grade 9.
- Thirty Grade 1 books published by Northwind provide authentic stories of Yukon First Nations people.
 - Grade 5 Social Studies booklets about Yukon First Nation traditional governance and citizenship.
 - Grade 4 Social Studies booklets about Yukon First Nation clans and languages.
 - Grade 12 Yukon First Nations course covers treaty, Yukon First Nations history and Indian Residential School information.
 - Yukon's Grade 10 Social Studies course includes a required unit on residential schools. This unit has digital Yukon stories, a Yukon history timeline, a Teacher's Guide and the Finding our Way Home textbook.
 - Ancestral Technology Grade 9 and 10 courses teach students about First Nations technologies and tools.
 - English First Peoples Grade 10, 11 and 12 are courses that teach English with more First Nations content and perspectives.
 - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture camps such as First Fish and First Hunt are approved as external credits by Education.
 - In-serviced educational resources developed by the Northern Tutchone people at three schools: Eliza Van Bibber, J.V. Clark and Tantalus.
 - Seven of the eight Yukon First Nations languages are taught in Yukon public schools.

C. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Lead: Canada, Executive Council Office

Calls to Action: 13-17

Supporting: Health and Social Services, Education

Summary: Calls to action 13-17 are primarily directed at the federal government, with the exception of 17, which asks all levels of government to waive administrative costs for name changes for residential school survivors whose names were changed by the schools. Actions within this theme emphasize recognizing the language rights of Aboriginal people and preserving and revitalizing languages.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Preservation and revitalization of languages:
 - In 2005/06, First Nations drew down the Yukon government's portion of language funding (\$1.1 million) directly from the Canadian Heritage department.
 - In 2009/10, Education contributed \$2.872 million to the Yukon First Nation Second Language programs.
 - In 2009, Northern Strategy provided \$2.5 million for a project on language revitalization.
 - The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, the Teslin Tlingit Council and Tr'ondëk

Hwëch'in all signed an agreement to assume responsibility for the Aboriginal Languages program as provided for in s. 17 of their Self-government Agreements.

- The Yukon Native Language Centre, funded by the Yukon government and administered by the Council of Yukon First Nations, is a training and research facility that provides a range of linguistic and educational services to First Nations people and the general public. It provides certificate and diploma programs for Aboriginal language teachers and also partners with University of Alaska Fairbanks to provide a bachelor's degree.
- There are two courses at Yukon College under the First Nation Studies program that involve introduction to Native Languages.
- Through the Rural Strategy Initiative, the Public Schools Branch is working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on new rural education models and has added language and culture space in Robert Service School (2013 to 2015).

D. HEALTH

Lead: Canada, Health and Social Services

Calls to Action: 18-24

Supporting: Public Service Commission

Summary: Most actions within this theme are directed at the federal government, with an aim to close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. Calls to action 18, 22 and 23 apply to the Yukon government and emphasize: an acknowledgement that the current state of health of Aboriginal people in Canada is a result of previous government policies and residential schools; that Aboriginal healing practices have a value in treating Aboriginal people; and that there is a need to increase the number of Aboriginal professionals in the health care field and the cultural competency of all health care professionals.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Aboriginal healing practices in health care:
 - Health and Social Services is taking measures to ensure that addictions programming and the environment in the new Sarah Steele detox facility supports First Nations peoples.
 - All new Continuing Care facility designs include healing centres and First Nations food preparation areas to ensure access to Aboriginal healing practices.
 - Health and Social Services funds First Nation Health programs through the Hospital Corporation in Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Dawson.
- Aboriginal professionals working in the health care field:
 - Community Nursing provides job shadowing opportunities for First Nations students interested in a nursing career.
 - Yukon Emergency Medical Services completed a Haines Junction Pilot Program that increased First Nations participation in both the volunteer and paid emergency service models. Following the success of the pilot project, Emergency Medical Services is strengthening partnerships with First Nations to help increase its capacity in communities across the territory.

- The Public Service Commission oversees the Representative Public Service Plan, which supports the hiring and advancement of Aboriginal employees through a number of program streams; the Commission also coordinates or supports First Nations training for Yukon government employees.
- Health and Social Services Home Care offers annual training for First Nations Home and Community Care workers in conjunction with training offered to Yukon government Home Support Workers.
- Cultural competency of health care professionals:
 - Health and Social Services has adopted the Council of Yukon First Nations' Cultural Competencies Toolkit for training of all department front line staff.

E. JUSTICE

Lead: Canada, Justice

Calls to Action: 25-42

Supporting: Health and Social Services

Summary: The Justice theme represents the largest number of Calls to action, many of which are directed to the federal government. Calls to action 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 refer to provincial and territorial governments and emphasize: eliminating the overrepresentation of adult and youth Aboriginal people in custody; finding alternatives to imprisonment; addressing the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD); providing culturally relevant services to offenders; adequately funding Aboriginal-specific victim services programs; and recognizing Aboriginal justice systems.

Since 2004, the Government of Yukon has been working to address the overrepresentation of First Nations people as offenders and victims in the criminal justice system. The Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan, the Corrections Action Plan, the Victims of Crime Strategy and the Review of Yukon's Police Force were undertaken in partnership with First Nations and other stakeholders in an effort to improve outcomes for individuals. While these initiatives were not undertaken specifically to address the TRC report, the intergenerational impacts of residential schools factored prominently in each of these initiatives.

The results of these initiatives have been received positively by First Nations and by Yukoners in general, in part because of the recognition of the need for collaboration with First Nations in developing solutions. The new model of correctional services has resulted in the Department of Justice actively engaging First Nations in the development and delivery programs and services that are culturally relevant to First Nations.

Harm-reduction initiatives such as the Community Wellness Court and the Justice Wellness Centre are providing alternatives to incarceration and wellness and healing opportunities for individuals and communities. Justice has been working with First Nations and women's organizations to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls and to improve community safety. Significant work has also been undertaken to respond to the needs of victims of crime.

The Yukon government has sought to support and strengthen the relationships between the RCMP and First Nations communities and individuals. First Nations have a voice through three First Nations members of the Yukon Police Council. As an outcome of Sharing Common Ground, the RCMP now actively seek First Nations community input in the selection of community detachment commanders, the orientation and mentorship of new members and shaping the kind of training members receive to better serve First Nations communities.

The Department of Justice will continue to work with First Nations on improving and expanding culturally relevant services in an effort to ensure that the justice system is more responsive to First Nations people. It is recognized that work in this area is far from over and that there are opportunities to improve outcomes for individuals involved in the justice system.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Reduce overrepresentation in Justice system:
 - The Substance Abuse Action Plan, Correctional Redevelopment process (including the passage of new legislation), Sharing Common Ground Review of Yukon's Police Force and the development of the Victims of Crime Strategy and *Victims of Crime Act*, were all undertaken in part to address overrepresentation.
 - Justice and Health and Social Services participate at intergovernmental and local tables on matters related to Aboriginal justice, including overrepresentation (e.g., Aboriginal Justice Strategy, Restorative Justice, Aboriginal Court Worker Program, First Nations Policing, Federal Provincial and Territorial Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials and the Federal Provincial and Territorial Working Group on Youth Justice Cost-Sharing Program.
 - Health and Social Services provides substance abuse prevention, education and treatment programming to young offenders and high-risk youth through the Youth Achievement Centre, Young Offenders Facility, and the Youth High-Risk Treatment Program.
- Alternatives to imprisonment:
 - Justice is working with the RCMP and the Federal Crown's office to draft a Memorandum of Understanding that would establish a diversion pilot project in communities. Its purpose would be to use alternate measures to resolve low-level criminal matters in the community, rather than a full court process.
 - Three diversion options are available in Yukon that provide alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal youth offenders: a pre-charge panel, extra-judicial sanctions, and the Restorative Community Conferencing Program.
 - Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the last third of a young offender's sentence is served in the community.
 - Health and Social Services works with First Nations to provide diversion programming for young Aboriginal offenders and an agreement with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre provides for the Tān Sakwāthān diversion program.
 - Justice operates a Community Wellness Court and the Justice Wellness Centre, which provide an alternative to incarceration and work to address the underlying

causes of offending. The Community Wellness Court is a judicially supervised therapeutic court that works with offenders with addictions or mental health or cognitive issues.

- Addressing needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder:
 - Health and Social Services and Justice provided support for a Justice-led FASD Prevalence Study. The study is currently underway and will provide a better understanding of the prevalence of the disorder – and other cognitive impairments – among persons involved with the Yukon correctional system.
 - Correctional Services Branch is piloting a complex-needs case-management process to better address the needs of clients with cognitive impairments. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed to improve collaboration between relevant agencies and continuity of care for these clients.
 - Court orders for young offenders take into account their background, extenuating circumstances and capacity issues, including FASD. Diagnoses of FASD for young offenders are always brought to the attention of the court.
 - A Yukon-based adult diagnostic and assessment team is being developed in collaboration with First Nations, focusing on individual strengths and needs to inform case-specific service plans.
 - Health and Social Services provides a range of support services to assist adults and children living with FASD, including an agreement with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon (FASSY) to provide outreach and support services to high-risk and marginalized individuals.
- Culturally relevant services to offenders:
 - Justice has had a contract in place with the Council of Yukon First Nations to provide a First Nations re-integration worker since November 2012. The re-integration worker works closely with Whitehorse Correctional Centre case managers on release planning before First Nation clients return to their communities. The re-integration worker travels to all communities to discuss the process of re-integration, establish contacts and identify services that may be available for the offender. The First Nation re-integration worker helps inmates apply for funding from the First Nation Reintegration Fund to meet their transitional needs. Funding may be used to acquire additional training, to purchase equipment or clothing needed for work, or to facilitate access to treatment programs.
 - The Kwanlin Dün First Nation's Justice Department and Offender Supervision and Services are working on a two-year pilot project to provide a collaborative, culturally relevant service delivery model to assist with the ongoing case management of clients living in the Kwanlin Dün First Nation community. Assigned probation staff will deliver services to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation in a space provided by the First Nation.
 - The Young Offenders' Facility refers young offenders to off-site treatment programs such as the Kwanlin Dün First Nation's Jackson Lake Healing Centre, as appropriate.

- The Corrections Branch has been very active in incorporating First Nation culture into the fabric of operations and programming at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Measures taken to address this have included:
 - incorporating traditional foods into the menu;
 - supporting the development and implementation of the Yukon First Nations Land-Based Healing Camp and referring offenders from the Correctional Centre and Offender Supervision and Services to participate in the program whenever it is offered;
 - *I Am a Kind Man* is a pilot program at Whitehorse Correctional Centre based on traditional First Nations teachings related to family violence;
 - establishing an Elders Advisory Board to consult on cultural matters;
 - including First Nations cultural training in basic training for correctional officers;
 - increasing the availability of First Nations facilitators to provide cultural workshops such as beading, drum-making, carving, spirit rattles and handling hides;
 - offering Southern Tutchone and Tlingit language training via Elders, when available;
 - offering Kaska language training (upon request) through Yukon College First Nations Initiatives;
 - partnering with Yukon College to deliver the Heritage and Cultural Essential Skills program to offenders;
 - making smudge kits available on every unit and individual smudge kits available upon request by offenders;
 - incorporating some traditional medicines into Health Services, available upon request by offenders;
 - establishing a library of Yukon First Nations books for offenders (24 volumes currently);
 - starting a video library project that involves Elders telling stories and talking about their clans and cultural practices (two completed to date), with the goal of making these available to offenders; and
 - undertaking recruitment initiatives to hire First Nations people to work in Corrections.
- Supporting Aboriginal victims of crime:
 - The Women's Directorate and Justice are providing \$281,000 to the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre to support a new legal advocate position, which will help women navigate the legal system.
 - Victim Services is working with the Northern Institute of Social Justice and the governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to develop an Essential Skills for Northern Victim Service Workers program, which will support capacity-building in rural and remote communities.

- Justice collaborated with government and non-government organizations to participate in the Victims of Crime Strategy Advisory Implementation Committee. First Nation organizations and governments represented on this committee include: the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council, the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women’s Circle, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- The Kwanlin Dün First Nation Justice Department and the Victim Services Unit are working together on a two-year pilot project to provide a collaborative, culturally relevant service delivery model to assist with the ongoing case management of clients living in the Kwanlin Dün community. Victim Services staff deliver services at a space provided by the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- The Women’s Directorate funds a \$200,000 program to support innovative projects that address violence against Aboriginal women and girls in Yukon communities. Since 2004, the Yukon government has contributed approximately \$1.7 million to violence prevention through this fund.
- Work to recognize Aboriginal justice systems:
 - The Community Justice and Public Safety Division has an agreement with the Council of Yukon First Nations to support information sharing with First Nations on corrections, policing and victims’ issues.
 - The Government of Yukon is party to an Administration of Justice Agreement with the Teslin Tlingit Council. Justice and Health and Social Services have signed Administration of Justice Framework Agreements with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Vuntut Gwitchin Government and Tr’ondek Hwech’in (although Canada has not signed this agreement).
 - The Yukon government has also engaged in exploratory Administration of Justice discussions with the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council and a request for commencement has been received from the Kluane First Nation. While work has been done in the past, no discussions with the three Northern Tutchone First Nations have taken place in several years.

F. CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE U.N. DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 43-44

Supporting: Executive Council Office, Justice

Summary: Call to action 44 is directed to Canada. Call to action 43 calls on all levels of government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the framework for reconciliation. As the declaration is not fully consistent with Final and Self-government Agreements, no initiatives are planned or underway.

Key Work Done to Date:

- In May 2014, the Yukon government endorsed Canada's 2010 Statement of Support for the declaration.

G. ROYAL PROCLAMATION AND COVENANT OF RECONCILIATION

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 45-47

Supporting: Executive Council Office and Justice

Summary: Calls to action 45 to 47 are directed towards Canada and the parties to the residential school system. They recommend a proclamation – similar to the Royal Proclamation of 1763 – that would identify the principles for advancing reconciliation.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Eleven of the fourteen Yukon First Nations have settled their land claims and are self-governing, which account for more than half of all self-governing First Nations in Canada. The agreements contain arrangements related to financial compensation, land, harvesting and other matters. They also enable innovative government to government relationships. They help preserve First Nations culture and strengthen the social, political and economic fabric of the territory. Under these agreements, First Nations have the power to enact laws for the provision of programs and services related to Aboriginal languages, cultural beliefs, health care, social welfare, placement of children, administration of justice and education programs as examples.
- The Yukon government is in various stages of negotiations for reconciliation agreements with the non-settled Yukon First Nations and the Kaska Dena Council.

H. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PARTIES AND THE U.N. DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Lead: Churches and parties to the settlement agreement

Calls to Action: 48-49

Summary: Calls to action 48 and 49 are directed to church parties to the settlement agreement and to religious denominations, asking them to comply with the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These actions are not applicable to the Yukon government.

I. EQUITY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 50-52

Supporting: Executive Council Office

Summary: These calls to action relate to adopting the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, publishing legal opinions related to Aboriginal and treaty rights and accepting Aboriginal title claims and shifting the burden of proving limitations on the right to the party asserting a limitation

Key Work Done to Date:

- Eleven of the fourteen First Nations have settled their land claims and are self-governing, which account for more than half of all self-governing First Nations in Canada. The agreements deal with financial, land, harvesting and other matters. They also enable

innovative government to government relationships. They help preserve First Nations culture and strengthen the social, political and economic fabric of the territory. Under these agreements, First Nations have the power to enact laws for the provision of programs and services related to Aboriginal languages, cultural beliefs, health care, social welfare, placement of children, administration of justice and education programs as examples.

J. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RECONCILIATION

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 53-56

Supporting: Executive Council Office

Summary: Calls to action 53 to 56 are directed to the federal government and parliament; however, item 55 calls upon all levels of government to provide progress reports and data to the National Council for Reconciliation for national progress reporting purposes. The Yukon government may face challenges providing the data referenced. We may not collect that data, or it may be covered by an agreement with the Council of Yukon First Nations that says we will not release data that differentiates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people without their consent.

K. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Lead: Public Service Commission

Call to Action: 57

Supporting: All departments

Summary: Call to action 57 asks all levels of government to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Public Service Commission delivers:
 - a four-day workshop on Yukon First Nations History, Culture, Agreements and Self-government;
 - a three-day Yukon First Nations Traditional Knowledge workshop; and
 - a corporate orientation for new employees which includes a component on land claims.
 - A ½ day offering of the Blanket Exercise. Three sessions will be delivered in 2015/16.
- The Department of Education adapted the Blanket Exercise for use in Yukon's Public Schools. Through the Representative Public Service Plan, the Public Service Commission is expanding delivery of the workshop to other departments. The Blanket Exercise uses participatory education to deepen participants' understanding of how federal policies and programs have impacted the lives of Indigenous people throughout Canada's history, as well as what is being done to bring about positive change.
- The Executive Council Office's Aboriginal Relations Unit offers courses to Yukon government employees that provide a history of land claims negotiations and knowledge about the Final and Self-government Agreements.

- The Department of Education provides a one-day Yukon First Nations orientation for teachers and principals before Summer Academy each year.
- All Community Nursing management staff attended a two-day course in cultural competency offered by Yukon College in 2014. As new management employees are hired, they are expected to complete the training within their first year.
- Health and Social Services delivers training to social workers and others who work directly with children to provide treatment, care or custody (e.g., foster parents, youth justice workers, child or youth treatment workers, and youth group home staff).
- Health and Social Services provides online training on First Nations in relation to social work in Yukon to all new staff. It includes strengths-based approaches to First Nations families, impacts of First Nations' histories in Yukon, and requirements and opportunities for collaborative work with First Nations.
- Health and Social Services and the Council of Yukon First Nations deliver joint training to develop capacity for First Nations and community health and social service workers in the area of mental health and addictions.
- Health and Social Services jointly developed a First Nations History and Culture training course with the Council of Yukon First Nations, the RCMP and Yukon College. The training course delivered by the Northern Justice Institute is mandatory for social workers in Yukon. It contains components on residential school experiences and provides a framework for incorporating the impacts of residential schools into social work practices.

L. CHURCH APOLOGIES AND RECONCILIATION

Lead: Parties to the Indian Residential School settlement agreement **Calls to Action:** 58-61
Summary: Calls to action 58 through 61 request apologies and education strategies for church congregations, clergy, religious organizations and other parties to the Indian Residential School settlement agreement. This theme is not applicable to the Yukon government.

M. EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION

Lead: Education **Calls to Action:** 62-65
Summary: The calls to action in this theme are focused on making curriculum on residential schools, treaties and Aboriginal history a mandatory requirement for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and on educating teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge into classrooms.

Key Work Done to Date:

- At the 2015 Council of Ministers of Education meeting, ministers welcomed the TRC calls to action and committed to maintaining momentum to further advance Aboriginal education across Canada. They reiterated their commitment to ensuring that curricula in provincial and territorial school systems enable students to gain an understanding of how residential schools affected Aboriginal children, families, and communities and, ultimately, the country as a whole.

- In August of 2013 at the first Summer Academy, all Yukon Education staff participated in a half-day workshop on residential schools. The workshop was led by Northern Institute of Social Justice and included Elders and residential school survivors telling their stories.
- Curriculum on residential schools and Aboriginal history:
 - Yukon's Grade 10 Social Studies course includes a required unit on residential school. This unit has digital Yukon stories, a Yukon history timeline, a Teacher's Guide and the Finding our Way Home textbook.
 - The Grade 12 Yukon First Nations course covers treaties, Yukon First Nations history and Indian Residential School information.
 - The C.H.A.O.S. 9 experiential learning program integrates First Nations traditional teachings, culture, knowledge and technologies when teaching English Grade 9, Social Studies Grade 9, Ancestral Technology Grade 9 and Outdoor Education Grade 9.
 - Thirty Grade 1 books published through Northwind provide authentic stories about Yukon First Nations people.
 - Education developed Grade 5 Social Studies booklets on Yukon First Nations traditional governance and citizenship as well as Grade 4 Social Studies booklets on clans and languages.
- Integrating Indigenous knowledge into classrooms:
 - The Yukon Native Teacher Education Program includes modules to assist graduates with integrating indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
 - Education provides funding for cultural inclusion activities, for Elders to work in the schools and for local First Nation orientations for Yukon school staff.
 - All new teachers and principals in Yukon participate in a one-day Yukon First Nations orientation hosted by a Yukon First Nation before Summer Academy each year.
 - Education's First Nation Programs and Partnerships website provides educational resources, information and best practices on Yukon First Nations education.
 - Education plans and facilitates Yukon First Nations Language teacher or trainee in-service training on resource material development and provides Promethean level 1-3 training and supporting collaborative visitations for Aboriginal Language teachers and trainees.

N. YOUTH PROGRAMS

Lead: Canada

Call to Action: 66

Supporting: Executive Council Office

Summary: Call to action 66 is directed at Canada and asks for a national network to be established to share information and best practices for youth programming. Executive Council Office's Youth Directorate could participate in a national network and share information.

O. MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 67-70

Supporting: Tourism and Culture

Summary: Calls to action 67-70 ask the federal government to undertake a national review of museum policies and best practices, establish a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation and ensure policy compliance with the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These actions are not applicable to the Yukon government, however, Tourism and Culture may have an interest in these items as they may result in funding programs and access to information that impact Yukon.

P. MISSING CHILDREN AND BURIAL INFORMATION

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 71-76

Supporting: Health and Social Services, Tourism and Culture, Energy, Mines and Resources

Summary: The calls to action in this theme are mainly directed at the federal government and relate to identifying and documenting deaths and burial sites related to residential schools.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Vital Statistics Branch provided all information requested and accessible to the TRC regarding records of deaths of Aboriginal children in the care of residential schools.
- Health and Social Services will continue to respond to requests from the federal government to support identification and documentation of burial sites.
- Under the *Historic Resources Act*, the Yukon government and First Nations jointly manage historic burial sites found on public lands outside of recognized cemeteries.

Q. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 77-78

Supporting: Executive Council Office

Summary: This theme relates to provinces, territories and municipalities working collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to maintain records and support research relevant to the history of residential schools.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Yukon Archives has provided all public records requested by the TRC and copies of private records which TRC researched and found of interest. This action was consistent with exemptions to disclosure under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- Yukon Archives facilitated the Anglican Church to work with TRC to identify and copy records of the Anglican Diocese of Yukon on deposit at Yukon Archives and assisted in the identification of records from the Roman Catholic Church in Yukon Archives holdings.

- Yukon Archives completed a bibliography of sources relevant to the history and legacy of Yukon residential schools which will be provided to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in response to call to action 78.

R. COMMEMORATION

Lead: Canada, Tourism and Culture

Calls to Action: 79-83

Supporting: Executive Council Office

Summary: Calls to action 79, 80, 81 and 83 are directed at Canada and other parties. Call to action 82 recommends the commissioning and installation of a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities. Tourism and Culture’s Arts Section has experience and expertise in commissioning large public arts works and could participate in this action. The action would require support from Aboriginal Relations to guide consultation with stakeholders such as survivors, survivor organizations, First Nation governments, and the City of Whitehorse regarding the commission process, the project’s scale and location of the monument.

Key Work Done to Date:

- A healing totem pole was carved and erected in downtown Whitehorse by the Northern Cultural Expressions Society with \$50,000 of funding from the TRC. Although the Yukon government did not commission this work, it is located on Yukon government land. The intention is for Yukon government to assume maintenance responsibilities for the pole.

S. MEDIA AND RECONCILIATION

Lead: Canada and media

Calls to Action: 84-86

Summary: Calls to action 84 through 86 are not applicable to the Yukon government. These actions related to funding for APTN, educating journalists and reflecting diverse Aboriginal cultures and perspectives in programming.

T. SPORTS AND RECONCILIATION

Lead: Community Services

Calls to Action: 87-91

Supporting: Tourism and Culture, Economic Development

Summary: Calls to action 89-91 are directed at Canada and host countries of international sporting events. Calls to action 87, 88 and 90i, are directed at all governments and relate to telling the story of Aboriginal athletes in history and supporting Aboriginal athlete developing and Indigenous games.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Telling the story of Aboriginal Athletes:
 - The Yukon government was an integral participant along with the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle in the creation of educational Sport Cards that are provided to groups

and schools within the territory that explicitly describe each element of Dene Games and Arctic Sports. New Arctic Sport Activity Cards are being developed and will be ready for distribution in 2015/16.

- As part of a tri-territorial project, Community Services' Sport & Recreation Branch provided financial and technical support to the creation of two books. "Dene Games an Instruction and Resource Manual", and the "Culture and Practice of Arctic Sports".
- Developing Aboriginal athletes and supporting Indigenous Games:
 - The Yukon government (through the Bilateral Agreement with Canada) contributes to the ability of Team Yukon to travel to and participate in the North American Indigenous Games (typically held every three years). Team Yukon is usually represented by 100-125 athletes. In the Bilateral Agreement for 2017/18, \$63,000 will go towards North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) travel costs for Team Yukon which will supplement the \$150,000 that the Yukon government provides to Team Yukon to attend NAIG.
 - A \$1M dollar legacy fund was created following the 2007 Canada Winter Games hosted in Yukon which has been established in perpetuity with the annual interest being used to support Aboriginal athletes in their pursuit of sport participation and excellence.
 - Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle is working closely with schools in promoting and developing competency in Arctic Sports, Dene games and archery and the numbers of youth participating continue to grow. The Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle is funded in 3 ways annually; Yukon Recreation Advisory Council (YRAC) provides \$20,000, Yukon Sport for Life (YS4L) \$14,500 and the Bilateral Agreement between Canada and YG, \$150,000. Within the YRAC and YS4L funding framework, all Yukon sport governing bodies can apply for funding to increase Aboriginal and rural participation in their sport specifically.
 - The Kids Rec Fund receives program funding from Health and Social Services and support from the Sport & Recreation Branch for administrative costs. This fund helps between 550-800 youth access funds to participate in sport and recreation throughout the territory, 90-95% of which are First Nation youth.
 - Yukon's coaching certification program includes an optional course and Aboriginal Coaching Manual that was developed by the Aboriginal Sport Circle of Canada and delivered by the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle.

U. BUSINESS AND RECONCILIATION

Lead: Corporate Sector

Call to Action: 92

Supporting: Economic Development, Energy Mines and Resources

Summary: Call to action 92 recommends that the corporate sector adopt the U.N. Declaration on Indigenous Rights and commit to ensuring consultation and relationship building with Indigenous peoples that will result in opportunities, benefits, and pursuit of consent before developing resources.

Key Work Done to Date:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is working on a draft Mineral Development Strategy to support resource exploration and development in Yukon, including local training and employment opportunities. One of the proposed goals of the strategy is to develop strategic and collaborative partnerships with Yukon First Nations.
- Economic Development supports First Nations' business planning and development through capacity development, feasibility studies and business plans, funding for strategic and economic planning, and supporting community readiness to prepare for major resource development in First Nation Traditional Territories, as outlined in Chapter 22 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- Economic Development is supporting the development of the First Nations Chamber of Commerce and its goal of increasing the benefits to its membership through its programs and services.
- Economic Development is redeveloping its investment attraction strategy to include First Nations interests and goals as well as expanding the strategy beyond resource extraction opportunities.
- Economic Development is supporting the North Yukon READI Initiative which will provide community-partnership / economic development and business development services to Tr'ondek Hwëch'in, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, as well as the Town of the City of Dawson and the Village of Mayo.
- Economic Development provides funds to Yukon's Däna Näye Ventures, a capital corporation that manages loan and micro-loan programs for Aboriginal businesses. These micro loans can benefit Yukon First Nations business people in the development of their businesses.
- Economic Development has supported the development of a promotional video to be distributed to target export markets. In addition Economic Development has supported a Curator/Gallery FAM Tour, to provide Yukon First Nations' fine art and traditional craft artists with the tools to explore and develop new markets by inviting national and international curators/owners to cultivate new business relationships. The department has also worked on the development of a five-year Yukon First Nations arts, culture and tourism business and marketing plan for the Yukon First Nation Tourism Association.
- Economic Development is participating in a Community Readiness initiative with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to help prepare the community for a variety of development opportunities in their traditional territory.

V. NEWCOMERS TO CANADA

Lead: Canada

Calls to Action: 93-94

Summary: Calls to action 93 and 94 are not applicable to the Yukon government. These action items are concerned with revising information provided to immigrants and amending the Oath of Citizenship.