



TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Tuesday, April 18, 2017



The Truth & Reconciliation Commission

In June 2015, the Truth & Reconciliation
Commission released 94 Calls to Action

The Truth & Reconciliation Commission

- Established in 2008
- Chaired by Justice Murray Sinclair
- 6750+ witness statements
- Final Report released December 2015

Residential Schools in Canada

- 139 Indian Residential Schools in Canada
- 150,000+ Indigenous children
- The last residential school closed in 1996
- 80,000+ residential school survivors still alive today



Over 6,000 Indigenous children died
as a result of the residential school system.

Residential Schools in Canada



St. Joseph's Indian Residential School, Williams Lake, BC (Deschatelets Archive, Retrieved from: <http://nctr.ca/scripts/mwimain.dll/1488183033/2/20/15164?RECORD&UNION=Y>)

Residential Schools in Canada



Residential Schools in Canada



St. Anne's Residential School, Fort Albany (http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/charlie-angus/missing-boys-of-st-annes_b_8819026.html)



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

For the child taken,
For the parent left behind



Why does this matter to us?

We Are All Treaty People



Key themes in the TRC Calls to Action:

- Culturally appropriate services, programs and policies
- Closing gaps in income, poverty, education, healthcare and employment
- Language maintenance and revitalization
- Child welfare

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

1. Respond to the TRC Calls to Action
2. Inform the direction of Indigenous Initiatives at TPL

Key Messages

- TPL has an important role to play in the Reconciliation process by:
 - Bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in a culturally safe and relevant space
 - Helping facilitate public education and awareness on Truth and Reconciliation, residential schools and treaty relationships
- TPL's Indigenous Initiatives are relevant to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Toronto.
- TPL has a responsibility in ensuring that the Library is a cultural safe and relevant space for members of Toronto Indigenous communities

Recommendations

1. Publicly endorse and support the TRC's 94 Calls to Action.
2. Approve and support, in principle, TPL's Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives.
3. Commit to the process of Reconciliation through long-term relationship-building and ongoing consultation with Toronto's Indigenous communities on these strategies, working collaboratively to develop an Indigenous Services Plan.
4. Share TPL's Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives widely with TPL staff and the library profession at large, including the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, in order to help support, and assist with, the Reconciliation efforts of Library communities on a national scale.
5. Consider additional recommendations that emerge after these strategies have been put forth and/or implemented.

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives



TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

1. Breaking Down Organizational Barriers
2. Indigenizing Library Spaces: Physical and Virtual
3. Incorporating Indigenous Content into TPL Programming
4. Improving Access to Indigenous Content through TPL Collections
5. Enabling and Empowering Indigenous Communities
6. Building Capacity and Staff Competency

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Breaking Down Organizational Barriers:

- Indigenous Advisory Council
- Elder-in-Residence
- Land acknowledgement statements at meetings, programs and events
- System measures and service benchmarks
- Third party community consultations
- Communication strategy

Indigenizing Library Spaces: Physical & Virtual

- Land and treaty acknowledgment statements in public service locations
- Remove barriers to smudging
- Dedicated space on tpl.ca for Indigenous content
- Indigenous artwork for TPL
- Providing spaces for Indigenous communities
- Signage in Indigenous languages
- Indigenous design and consultation in new construction projects or branch renovations

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Incorporating Indigenous Content into TPL Programming:

- Canada 150 statement
- Year round programming
- Read Indigenous campaign
- Community Librarian Pilot Project
- Indigenous language programs
- Traditional teachings
- Integrate Indigenous content in established programming

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Improving Access to Indigenous Content through TPL Collections:

- Expand Native Peoples' Collections to more locations
- Indigenous content in all branch collections
- Indigenous content in children's collections
- Indigenous language learning resources
- Indigenous content labels
- Update cataloguing and classification practices

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Enabling and Empowering Indigenous Communities:

- Library membership for people living on reserve
- Longer loan periods
- Make digital content accessible to people living on reserve
- Continue to support the *Impact to Access to Technology Study*

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Building Capacity and Staff Competency:

- Recruitment of Indigenous staff
- Compulsory Indigenous Cultural Competency training
- Offer curriculum-based training
- Dedicated space for Indigenous Initiatives on ShareTPL
- Protocols for engaging with Elders and Indigenous communities
- Build a Community of Practice

Logic Model Framework

- Identify resources
- Track and monitor outputs
- Assess impact
- Align with TPL and City priorities

TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

“We have described for you a mountain.
We have shown you the path to the top.
We call upon you to do the climbing.”

-- Justice Murray Sinclair