

Reconciliation

“Education holds the key to reconciliation. It is where our country will heal itself,” Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

“Canadian Libraries of all kinds and other cultural memory institutions have, for the most of the past 150 years, been built and operated in a colonial context and manner ... In other words, they have served to reflect and reinforce a colonial culture and a self-aggrandizing view of Western civilization, while ignoring and erasing Indigenous knowledge, place-names and sovereignty.” CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report, 2017.

Board Discussion

Trustees bring a diversity of experiences, skills, knowledge, and questions to public library board work. Board policies and practices vary across the province and BCLTA is focused on common issues of common concern for board development. Your board chair, your library director, and BCLTA all have a role in helping you find further resources specific to your needs. The Libraries Branch staff are available for all questions regarding the *Library Act*.

Your board reconciliation discussions might cover a wide range of topics such as:

- Reconciliation as a government priority, provincially and locally.
- Reconciliation as an individual and organizational journey.
- Board participation in library and local reconciliation initiatives.
- Board relationships with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations.
- Board strategic direction and expected outcomes that inform library operations for furthering reconciliation such as partnerships, programs, space design, and collections.
- Supporting the library director so that they are successful with their day-to-day work of managing and overseeing library operations for reconciliation.

Resources

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- [Reports and Calls to Action](#)

[National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)

- As well as other resources, includes a link to the final report *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

[UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

- For a global perspective.

[First Nations in BC Knowledge Network](#)

- This is a space for First Nations to share information with First Nations. Some of the resources are open to the public for learning about First Nation issues from a First Nations perspective and we are asked to use this resource respectfully.

[First Nations Health Authority](#)

- Important section on [Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility](#).

[First Nations Education Steering Committee](#)

- From the website:
Our mandate is to facilitate discussion about education matters affecting First Nations in BC by disseminating information and soliciting input from First Nations. The primary goal is to promote and support the provision of quality education to First Nations learners in BC.

[Indigenous Corporate Training](#)

- Provides training on Indigenous relations.
- [Weaving Reconciliation into Your Meetings](#), posted November 13, 2019.

[Indigenous Foundations](#) (First Nations and Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia)

- Resource portal to organizations, articles, and other materials to support learning about Indigenous people in Canada.

[Indigenous Leadership Development Institute](#)

- Cultural Awareness Training for non-Indigenous people.

[Kairos](#)

- A joint venture ecumenical program administered by the United Church of Canada.
- Known for their [Blanket Exercise Workshop](#).

[Learning the Land: Walking the talk of Indigenous Land Acknowledgements](#)

- Matthew Robert Anderson, *The Conversation*, October 30, 2019.
- Thoughtful writing on the purpose and meaning of land acknowledgements.

[The National Campus and Community Radio Association/ L'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires – Resonating Reconciliation Documentaries](#)

- Indigenous produced documentaries regarding the legacy of Indian Residential Schools in their communities.

[Reconciliation Canada](#)

- Resources, program partnerships, and reconciliation updates.

[Xwi7xwa Library \(UBC\)](#)

- From the website:
Xwi7xwa Library is a centre for academic and community Indigenous scholarship. Its collections and services reflect Aboriginal approaches to teaching, learning, and research. Everyone is welcome to visit Xwi7xwa Library.

Indigenous Media

[Aboriginal Peoples Television Network \(APTN\)](#)

- The first national Indigenous broadcaster in the world, with the mission “to share our Peoples’ journey, celebrate our cultures, inspire our children, and honour the wisdom of our Elders.”

[CBC News, Indigenous](#)

- CBC News from an Indigenous perspective or related to Indigenous issues.

[Indigenous Publishers, Distributors & News Media \(UBC\)](#)

- UBC annotated library guide.

[Windspeaker](#)

- If you are not already reading Indigenous news, this is a good starting place for being pointed to other news, current events, and arts and culture resources.
- From the website:
The Aboriginal Multi-Media Society is an independent Aboriginal communications organization committed to facilitating the exchange of information reflecting Aboriginal culture to a growing and diverse audience.

Government

BC Provincial Government

On October 24, 2019, the Province of BC announced new legislation that will put BC laws in line with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Please see [A New Path Forward](#) which provides an overview of what this means for reconciliation in BC and a *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act* fact sheet.

From *A New Path Forward*:

New legislation will put B.C. laws in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This is a historic moment for everyone in B.C.

B.C.'s new law recognizes and respects the human rights of Indigenous peoples and will help to build a stronger B.C.

It makes sure Indigenous peoples are a part of the decisions that affect them, their families and their territories. It provides a way forward on reconciliation with a plan that will work for everyone in B.C.

Indigenous peoples and the B.C. government are building a better future, together. That means good jobs and opportunities that benefit all, while protecting the land, air and water.

Other significant BC provincial government reconciliation documents:

- Reconciliation is a priority in Minister Mandate Letters, Service Plans, and in the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#).
- The [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#) is specifically mandated to lead reconciliation with First Nations and Indigenous peoples in BC.
- [Frequently Asked Questions: Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#).
- [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).

Official Community Plan

- Consult your community's OCP for reconciliation initiatives that the public library might be part of to further the goals of the OCP and the public library.

School Districts

- Check out your school district's reconciliation planning.
- Ministry of Education [Service Plan](#) and Calls to Action.
- The BC School Trustees Association [2019/22 Strategic Plan Summary](#) highlights their work with support school boards with Indigenous education and truth and reconciliation.

The Union of BC Municipalities

- Supports local government reconciliation efforts with the [Community to Community Forum](#) and with resources in their [Reconciliation and Relationships](#) section.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities

- [Pathways to Reconciliation](#).

Library World

Canadian Federation of Library Associations

- [The Truth and Reconciliation Report](#).
- Recommendations for how the library and archive community can support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

[Toronto Public Library Indigenous Advisory Council](#)

- From the website:
The Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) is made up of members from different Indigenous communities and of representatives from Indigenous service providers in Toronto. The IAC meets quarterly and provides feedback and guidance on the direction of Indigenous initiatives at Toronto Public Library, including the Land Acknowledgement Statement, Elders in Residence program, and Read Indigenous campaign.

[“Let’s Talk About Reconciliation” A Resource Guide for Libraries](#)

- From the website:
Let’s Talk About Reconciliation is the title of a series of dialogues associated with the screening of a film made by an Indigenous artist, and organized by public libraries across Canada. This three-year project (2018-2021) is the result of a partnership among the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the National Film Board of Canada, Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations’ Indigenous Matters Committee, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and your local library.

[Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education](#)

- From the website:
This course will help you envision how Indigenous histories, perspectives, worldviews, and approaches to learning can be made part of the work we do in classrooms, organizations, communities, and our everyday experiences in ways that are thoughtful and respectful. In this course, reconciliation emphasizes changing institutional structures, practices, and policies, as well as personal and professional ideologies to create environments that are committed to strengthening our relationships with Indigenous peoples.

[Indigenous Canada MOOC](#)

- Includes tools and resources developed by the CFLA Indigenous Matters Committee.

[The Public Library and Indigenous Reconciliation](#)

- Olivia Robinson, *Rabble.ca*, September 10, 2019.

[TRC Calls to Action: Library Resources and Best Practices](#)

- Dalhousie University.

[Reconciling Communities: Planting Seeds of Change through Cultural Education and Truth-telling](#)

- American Library Association, November 2017.
- Wendy Wright, Library Director, Smithers Public Library.
- Archived recording available through the above link.

[Truth and Reconciliation](#)

- Greater Victoria Public Library.

Reconciliation Reading and Resource Lists

- [Vancouver Public Library](#).
- [Vancouver Island Regional Library](#).

BC Public Library Governance in Action

Organizations value and assess what they state as important. The following is a small survey of BC Public library board documents that include reconciliation:

North Vancouver City Library

- [NVCL Strategic Plan, 2018-2021.](#)
- This strategic plan fits with the CFLA *Reconciliation Report and Recommendations* and importantly heeds the TRC Calls to Action.
- Introduction from the Board Chair and Library Director begins with land acknowledgement.
- *Honour Indigenous Perspectives* is one of the four strategic priorities and includes a commitment, to “Train staff and trustees about Indigenous history and experience, and the principles of reconciliation”.

Vancouver Island Regional Library

- [Strategic Plan 2016-2020.](#)
 - “Reaching out to Aboriginal communities to address their unique needs” is in the plan for meeting “Principle 1: Community”.
- [2017 Annual Report.](#)
 - Includes reporting out to the community on VIRL reconciliation initiatives.

Vancouver Public Library

- [Truth and Reconciliation at Vancouver Public Library.](#)
- Note the “Progress to Date” reports to the board.

West Vancouver Memorial Library

- [2017 Annual Report.](#)
- The report, from cover through to content, reflects reconciliation as a strategic priority.

Visit bclta.ca for more information about BCLTA including how to contact us to add your resources, templates, or policies to a Discussion Starter.

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