



June 21, 2017

Truth and Reconciliation Statement for Family Resource Programs of BC

On June 1st, 2008, the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established by the Government of Canada. In addition to a report presenting the findings of the commission, the TRC made 94 calls to action to work towards reconciliation.¹ This statement represents FRP-BC's acknowledgement of the findings of the report, and specifies the actions we will commit to in working towards reconciliation.

While the calls to action do not explicitly call on family resource programs or FRP-BC to respond, FRP-BC recognizes that all Canadians have some responsibility to work towards truth and reconciliation, including non-profit and charity organizations. This statement is a first step in taking that responsibility seriously. Consistent with this statement as a first effort in considering our role in reconciliation, FRP-BC remains open to suggestions and consultations, especially with local First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, on how our organization can continue to work towards reconciliation.

Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that acts of colonization (such as requiring Indigenous² children to attend residential schools), has made many inequities for First Nations, Inuit and Métis³ people in multiple forms. Despite these acts of colonization, Indigenous people continue to have vibrant communities and cultures.

We acknowledge that reconciliation is the work of all Canadians. Because residential schools directly affected children and families, FRP-BC feels particularly called to publicly respond to, and act on, the report and its calls to action.

We acknowledge that language, culture and education are vital for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to thrive and children must have the opportunity to learn through their own culture and language.

We acknowledge that for true reconciliation to happen FRP-BC's process of reconciliation must continue to work to include First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

¹ Links to the Final Report and the 94 Calls to Action can be found in the resources section at the end of this document.

² For the purpose of this statement, we are using "Indigenous" to mean "native to the area, peoples who have occupied a territory since time immemorial." We use it as an inclusive term of all First Peoples of Canada: Status, Non Status, First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The term has gained prominence as a term to describe Aboriginal peoples in an international context. Indigenous is considered by some to be the most inclusive term of all, since it identifies peoples in similar circumstances without respect to national boundaries or local conventions. However, for some it is a contentious term, since internationally, and in the United Nations context, it often defines groups primarily in relation to their colonizers.

³ The terms "First Nations", "Inuit", and "Métis" each refer to one of the three distinct groups recognized as "Aboriginal" in the *Constitution Act* of 1982 (<http://www.afn.ca/en/about-afn/description-of-the-afn>).

Commitments:

FRP-BC commits to implementing the following:

In response to the TRC's Calls to Action:

1. In response to call 5, encourage FRP-BC members to do their own work towards truth and reconciliation and provide resources to members on how to create their own reconciliation statement
2. In response to call 23iii, ensure that staff members and board members have cultural training in regards to First Nations, Inuit and Métis people
3. In response to call 33, organize and provide training for FRP practitioners in areas such as providing culturally appropriate programming, and First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultural training; seek funding to provide this training

Relationship with Members:

4. Identify "expressions of reconciliation," such as those identified in the TRC report, within the early childhood development field and share these examples with FRP-BC members, staff, and board members
5. Support all FRP-BC members to provide a safe, welcoming and engaging environment in their programs for all people including Indigenous people

Relationship with Indigenous Communities:

6. Further consultation and relationship building with Indigenous communities to ensure that reconciliation is ongoing and that our work is adapted to specific local concerns as well as the TRC's Calls to Action
7. Forge reciprocal partnerships with local First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations by working together for the benefit of all
8. Ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis people are considered in all the work that FRP-BC does and how this work may affect Indigenous communities

Work within FRP-BC:

9. Make land acknowledgements at FRP-BC hosted meetings and events
10. Ensure that FRP-BC's strategic plans includes goals to further reconciliation and create a reconciliation plan that specifies how to achieve these goals; review these goals annually