

Truth and Reconciliation Report

20 April 2018
GovInfo Day

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❖ Outline:

- Introduction & background
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission report & some updates
- YOU participating
- Moving forward
- Summary

Introduction & background

From the TRC Report:

“For over a century, the central goals of Canada's Aboriginal policy were to eliminate Aboriginal governments, ignore Aboriginal rights; terminate the Treaties; and through a process of assimilation, cause Aboriginal peoples to cease to exist as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities.”

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Summary of the Final Report*, 2015, p. 1.

Introduction & background

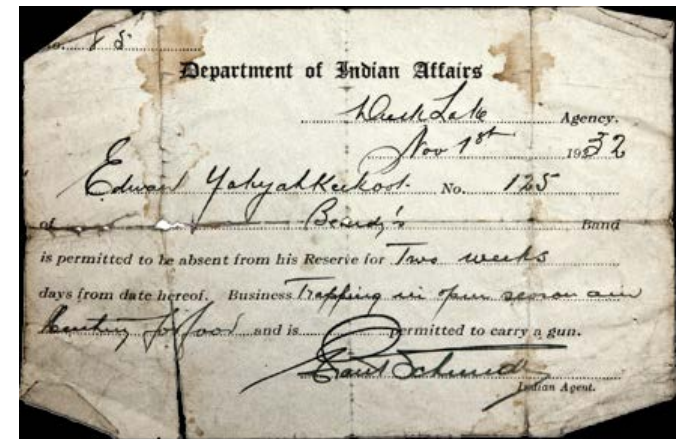
❖ Actions taken to destroy Indigenous knowledge systems

- Banning of ceremonies
- Creation of reserve system
- Creation of residential schools

→ Impacts protocols, land, language



Students at the blackboard, Red Deer Institute, ca. 1914. United Church of Canada Archives, 93.049P/850N.



Example of Indian Pass, Photo courtesy of Shauneen Pete.

Introduction & background

- ❖ Access
 - Distance; cost; navigation; fragmentation
- ❖ Description
 - Creator; authorities; subject headings
- ❖ Legal framework
 - Intellectual property protection; culturally sensitive materials
- ❖ Control
 - Power; decision-making

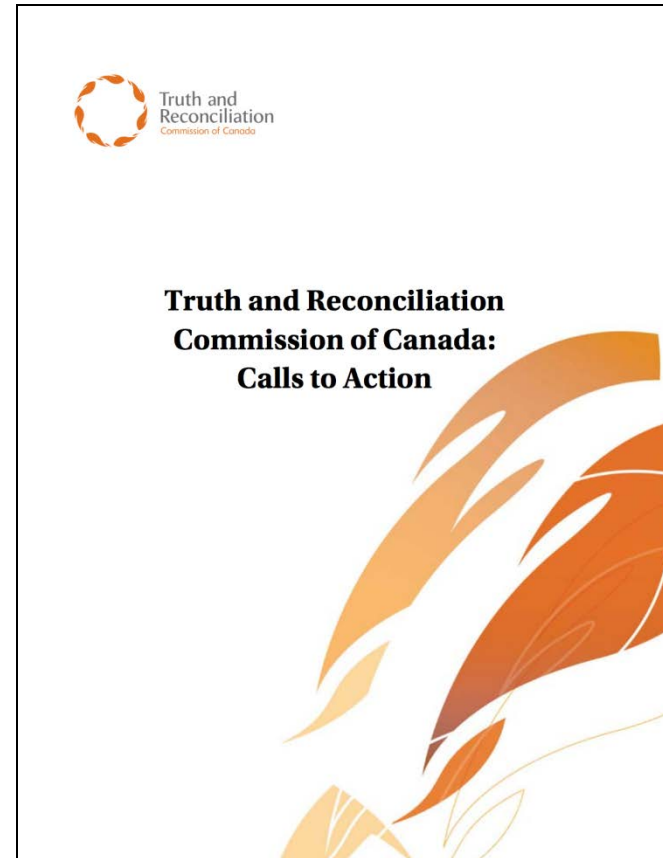
TRC Report

❖ Report

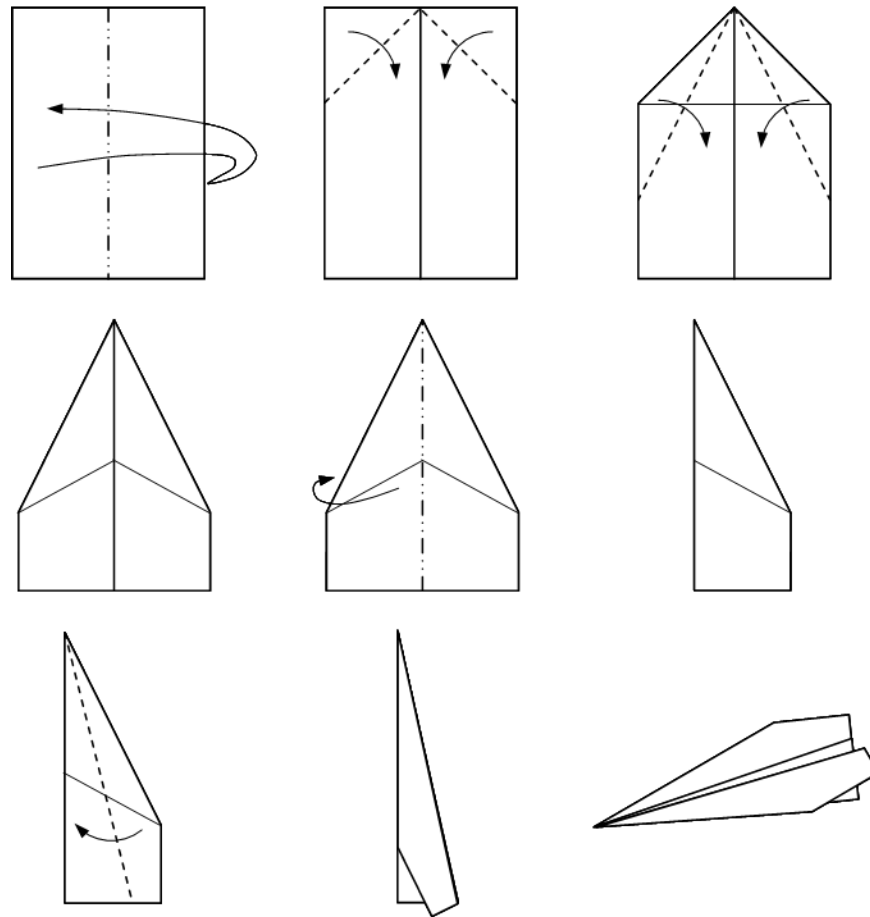
- TRC
- Calls to action

❖ Responses

- Library
- Archives



YOU participating (see handout)



Moving forward

❖ The “Four R’s”

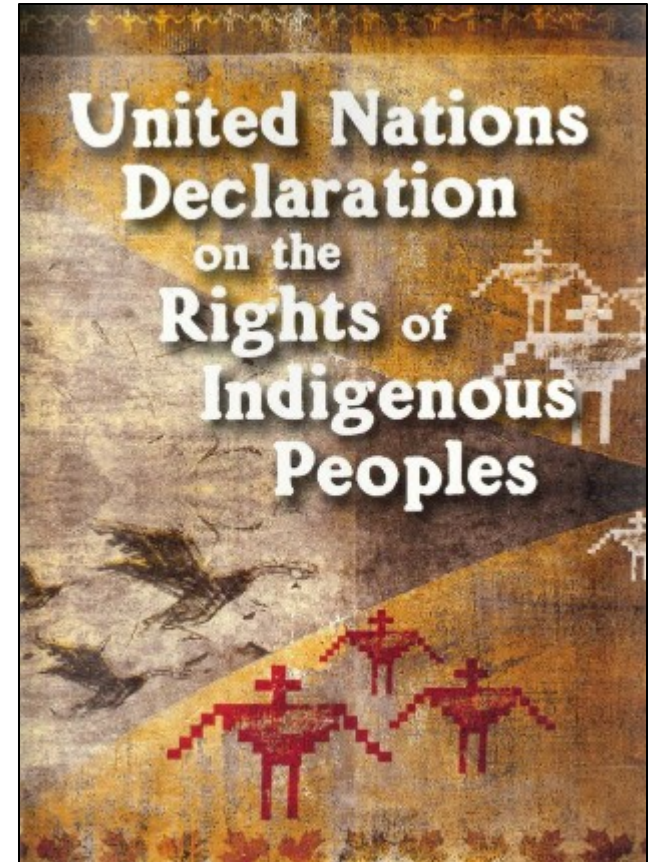
- **Respect** for Indigenous cultural integrity
- **Relevance** to Indigenous perspectives and experiences
- **Reciprocity** in relationships
- **Responsibility** through participation

Verna J. Kirkness (Cree) and Ray Barnhardt, “First Nations and Higher Education: The Four Rs—Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility,” in *Journal of American Indian Education*, 1991.

Moving forward

❖ Some resources

- CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee Report & Recommendations
- Protocols for Native American Archival Materials
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services
- UNDRIP
- UN Joint-Orentlicher Principles
- Ownership, Control, Access, Possession
- Statement of Principles relating to Australian Indigenous Knowledge and the Archives



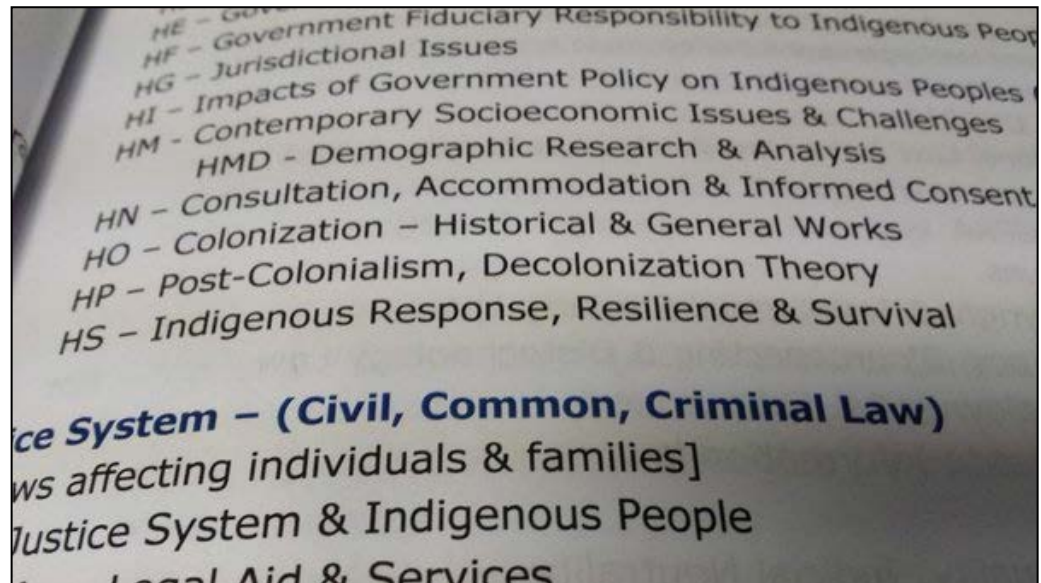
Moving forward

❖ Ethical Research Policy

- “provides the framework for all research conducted at the UBCIC Resource Centre to ensure it is for the benefit of Aboriginal people”

❖ Endorsement of the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials

❖ Brian Deer Classification



UBCIC Brian Deer Classification System sample

Moving forward



Indigitization Grant Program



Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums



Traditional Knowledge labels in Mukurtu

What do you want people to know?

- ❖ Communities need to benefit from reconciliation.
- ❖ Importance of access (as a starting point).
- ❖ Get to know your collection. And don't assume you have nothing of interest to Indigenous people.
- ❖ If you find something that you think might be of interest to communities, let them know!
- ❖ Preserve orthography in descriptions.

What do you want people to know?

- ❖ Indigenous peoples are diverse.
- ❖ Do the work.
- ❖ Assume positive intent; own negative effects.
(April Hathcock)
- ❖ We need to be in this for the long-haul; relationships are important.

Summary

“Indigenous peoples have both rights *to* as well as responsibilities *for* Indigenous knowledge in all its manifestations. We have a seven generational perspective. We have seemingly infinite patience and perseverance that trusts in the animation of our knowledge systems for the sustenance of our peoples. We think strategically, taking seriously the responsibility for connecting the hearts and the minds of *all* our relations. We perceive the fragmented captives contained in collections, in archives, in recordings, and we will their return, countering willful cultural genocide with willful cultural sovereignty. We recognize that we each have gifts to engage. And we trust that collectively we can catalyze changes of form that others cannot even imagine, let alone will into being, for the well-being of all.” ...

Summary

“What will it take to transform the information practices, policies, and procedures around Indigenous information and knowledge held outside Indigenous communities? The short answer is it will take time, respect, and patience from both sides of the divide. It will take open hearts and minds ready to search for win/win solutions located potentially outside the comfort zones of existing practice. It will take conversation, lots of it. It will take compromise, perhaps from those who have never needed to before. It will take a will toward consensus.”

Alison Krebs (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians), “Native America’s Twenty-first-century Right to Know,” *Archival Science* (2012), 12, p. 187-89.



T'ooyaksiý nisim!

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