



Windsor Public Library
Truth and Reconciliation Report
Thursday August 17, 2017

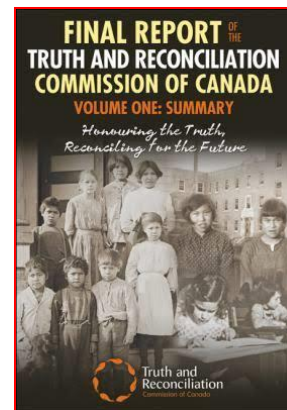
1. OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Review the recommendations of Justice Murray Sinclair's [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#) (TRC) report of June 2015 and Call to Action # 69

“We call upon Library and Archives Canada to: ...

- ii. Ensure that its record holdings related to residential schools are accessible to the public.
 - iii. Commit more resources to its public education materials and programming on residential schools.”
- Outline Windsor Public Library’s response to the TRC report.



2. BACKGROUND:

In June 2015, the TRC released a report, calling on all levels of government and institutions to “...redress the legacy of residential schools...” by responding to the 94 Calls to Action. In the words of Justice Sinclair, "Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships. There are no shortcuts. We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing."

In Windsor according to Statistics Canada 2011, the [Windsor Indigenous population](#) was 8,235 residents or 3.7% of the total population including 6,910 First Nations, 1,470 Métis and 30 Inuit; new census data will be release in the fall. The closest residential school to Windsor was the [Mount Elgin Indian Residential School](#) which operated from 1851-1946 in Muncey Ontario, west of London.

The [Canadian Federation of Library Associations](#) has established a Truth and Reconciliation Committee to respond to the [Calls to Action](#). Public libraries have an important role in supporting Call to Action # 69 iii) by: *bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous neighbours plus facilitate public education*. For example the Edmonton Public Library Board has just appointed its first Elder in Residence, and Saskatoon Public’s Read for Reconciliation space, in the main library, provides customers with resources about the TRC and residential schools in Saskatchewan.

For new Board members: WPL has a special connection to the TRC and specifically Justice Sinclair who worked for former WPL Board member [Premier Howard Pawley](#). It was the “Premier” who regularly encouraged the WPL Board to support those in need and particularly First Nations, Inuit and Métis indicatives and programs.

3. ACTIONS:

To respond to the TRC Call to Action, it is recommended that Windsor Public Library:

1. Improve access to Indigenous resources by:
 - Actively collecting library material that reflects the First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures. To accomplish this Administration recommends allocating the 2016 Discard Reserve Fund of \$11,464 to purchase additional Indigenous resources.
 - Actively collect and promote Indigenous genealogical resources by publishing biographies of Famous Windsorites of Indigenous descent on the Famous Windsorites portal.
2. Incorporate Indigenous content into WPL programming and outreach:
 - Celebrate Aboriginal Month (June) in all locations with displays, events and programs.
 - Use the bookmobile (FRED) to attend First Nations, Inuit and Métis community events.
3. Build capacity and WPL staff understanding by focusing on Indigenous library services and resources. At the fall WPL Staff Development Day staff will learn basic greetings, explore recently purchased Indigenous resources, hear about additions to the Famous Windsorites portal and plans for Indigenous programs.
4. Demonstrate respect for Indigenous peoples through:
 - a) Ethical information collection and sharing of *Aboriginal Knowledge*.
 - b) Connecting with First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations within Windsor.

4. CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

While commenting on the TRC, residential school survivor, Victoria Wells said,

“I’ll know that reconciliation is happening in Canadian society when Canadians, wherever they live, are able to say the names of the tribes with which they’re neighbours; they’re able to pronounce names from the community, or of people that they know, and they’re able to say hello and goodbye, in the language of their community.”

This is exactly what WPL is striving to accomplish.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
TO authorize \$11,464 from the Windsor Public Library 2016 Discard Reserve Fund to be allocated to purchase additional Indigenous library materials for all branches.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the WPL Board accepts the Truth and Reconciliation Report as presented/amended.

Other resources include: [First Nations in Ontario](#); [First Nations](#); [Ontario First Nations Maps](#) ; [First Nations Map](#); [Traditional Territories](#); [History](#); [Métis Heritage](#); [Aboriginal Knowledge Collection](#) .

Prepared by:
K. Pope, CEO
kpope@windsorpubliclibrary.com