

WINDSOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Windsor Public Library Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report #2 Tuesday, August 13, 2019

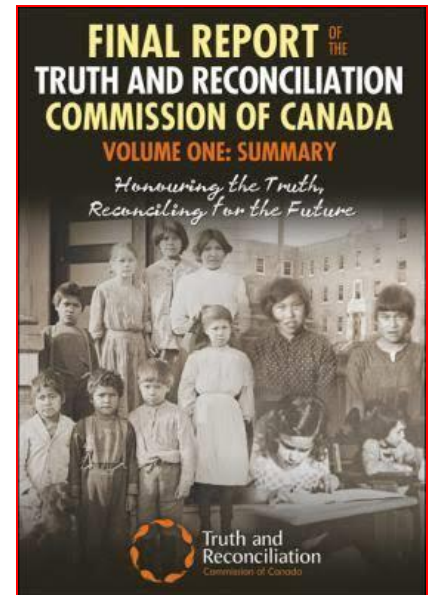
1. OBJECTIVES:

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 which states:
"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 material and programming on residential schools."
- Update the WPL Board on initiatives that support the TRC.

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 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."



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 initiatives and programs.

In Windsor according to Statistics Canada 2016, the Windsor Indigenous population was 8,515 residents or 3.8% of the total population including 6,315 First Nations, 2,135 Métis and 65 Inuit. The closest residential school to Windsor was the [Mount Elgin Indian Residential School](#), which operated from 1851-1946 in Muncey Ontario, west of London. Other resources referenced in this report include : [First Nations in Ontario](#); [first-nations](#); [Ontario-first-nations-maps](#); [firstnations_map.jpg](#); [traditional-territories](#); [History.pdf](#); [Métis heritage](#); [Aboriginal Knowledge collection](#).

The [Canadian Federation of Library Associations](#) established a Truth and Reconciliation Committee in 2016 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 facilitating public education.

For example the:

- Toronto Public Library Board endorsed 42 Indigenous initiatives to break down organizational barriers; improve access to Indigenous content, programs and library spaces, plus build staff competencies [CLICK](#)
- Hamilton Public Library is working with city partners on a wide variety of programs [CLICK](#)
- Thunder Bay Public Library is presenting a wide variety of Indigenous programs [CLICK](#)
- Edmonton Public Library Board have appointed an Elder in Residence
- Saskatoon Public Library's Read for Reconciliation space in the main library provides easy access to resources about the TRC and residential schools in Saskatchewan.

3. ACTIONS:

To respond to the TRC Calls to Action, WPL is:

1. Actively purchasing print and digital Indigenous resources that reflect First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures. With particular attention to any material published about Windsor or Essex County First Nations.
2. Incorporating Indigenous content into programming and outreach services such as:
 - Celebrate Aboriginal Month and First Nation's Public Library Week with a series of indigenous art programs for kids and adults
 - Invite Indigenous artisans to talk about traditional and contemporary art
 - FRED & Wilma will attend First Nations, Inuit and Métis community events
 - Incorporate a Medicine Garden into the Rain Garden at the Forest Glade Branch and present programs about indigenous gardens [CLICK](#).

4. CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDED MOTION:

WPL continues to support Call to Action # 69 to ensure access to information related to residential schools and aboriginal culture is publicly available in a variety of forms and mediums to the Windsor community.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ THAT the Windsor Public Library Board accepts the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report #2 as presented/amended.

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