



Calls to Action

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF
CANADA

A Status Report for the
Government of Prince Edward Island

June 2022

INTRODUCTION

From 2008 to 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) gathered stories and truths from survivors of residential schools and family members across Canada, culminating in the release of the TRC Final Report in December of 2015. Within the report, there are 94 Calls to Action calling on governments, institutions, businesses and industry, and all Canadians to work collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canada and address the ongoing trauma resulting from the residential school system.

In 2019, the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island (PEI) passed Motion 41, which included a commitment to table an annual status report detailing the government's progress towards implementing the TRC Calls to Action. This report, which brings together the collective and collaborative work undertaken across the Government of PEI, affirms that everyone has a role to play and that the Calls to Action are rooted in historical and complex issues that require immediate attention and a long-term commitment. A preliminary report, tabled in 2019, captured current programs and initiatives across government that advance this work and status reports have been tabled each subsequent year.

The implementation of the Calls to Action is not a checkbox exercise; the TRC recommendations call for long-lasting systemic and social transformation that will require collaboration and accountability amongst all Canadians. Although progress needs to be measured, the work of advancing reconciliation must not simply be captured in a scorecard.

Although the majority of the 94 Calls to Action are not within the provincial jurisdiction to address, PEI has a unique role to play as a provincial partner working with our colleagues at every level of government to ensure that we are affecting meaningful change for Indigenous people in PEI. It is important to note that the 2022 TRC Status Report is structured to include the Calls to Action that are within the Province of PEI's scope to respond to and, as such, does not include all the work that is being done to advance reconciliation. For example, some programs and initiatives related to responding to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Calls for Justice recommendations are part of the province's efforts to advance reconciliation, even if they do not also expressly meet the TRC Calls to Action recommendations.

In the seven years that have passed since the TRC Final Report and Calls to Action were released, the Government of PEI is proud of the progress it has made towards implementing the recommendations and the important work that has moved reconciliation forward. However, there is much more to be done. The Government of PEI affirms its commitment to advancing the implementation of the Calls to Action and moving forward with Indigenous partners on the path to reconciliation, addressing the legacy of trauma, violence, and oppression that has been inflicted upon Indigenous people and working together to secure a brighter future for all.

CHILD WELFARE

1. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:
 - i. Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.

The Government of PEI, through its Department of Social Development and Housing is solely responsible for the delivery of all Child Protection Services pursuant to the Child Protection Act, including to all Indigenous children and families living on and off reserve. The Director of Child Protection is required to provide all notifications of significant measures to an Indigenous child's Indigenous governing body and have agreed to report to the Designated Representative of both Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation. As well, the Director of Child Protection works in collaboration with the Designated Representative and/or Indigenous governing body, as defined in the Child Protection Act or as defined in An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families.

- ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.

The Department of Social Development and Housing's Child Protection Services program has a working protocol with Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) who offer the PRIDE program supports for on-reserve families at their request or agreement. The Native Council of PEI (NCPEI) also offers additional resources for PEI's Indigenous families as requested.

The department has an Indigenous Services Team for on-reserve Indigenous children and youth, which is comprised of one Supervisor, three Child Protection Social Workers, and one temporary Child Protection Social Worker, two Case Aides, and one Family Services Worker. These positions are divided between Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation.

- iii. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.

In December 2021, virtual training was offered to Child and Family Services staff. This training was led by Naomi Metallic (Mi'gmaq Assistant Professor and Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University). There were two half day sessions provided, which included an online video and a question and answer period with Naomi Metallic on *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.

There is also Core training completed by Child Protection Social Workers. The Indigenous-related components of this training are currently being revised and updated and does include history and current Indigenous Services Child Protection responsibilities.

As well, the Public Service Commission (PSC) offers learning and development opportunities for all public service employees. Within Diversity and Inclusion, there is a specific course called Diversity Training Workshop and within that workshop there is a section dedicated to Mi'kmaq Training Program. This program is specially designed for PEI public sector employees and managers and covers history and cultural traditions. Today's Mi'kmaq society and consulting with the Mi'kmaq.

- iv. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.

In addition to the initiatives noted above, a resource developed in 2015 entitled "*Aboriginal Cultural Connections: A Child Protection Resource Guide*" was developed in partnership with Prince Edward Island's First Nations leaders, Elders and community representatives. This guide promotes understanding and knowledge of the rich Indigenous culture on Prince Edward Island when providing Child Protection Services, either in home or out of home, to Indigenous children and their parents.

- v. Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.

The impact of the residential school experience on Indigenous children and their caregivers is an ongoing consideration in the delivery of Child and Family Services. Staff receive core training through the department as well as some additional external training through MCPEI. Several staff have also participated in other training through Touchstones of Hope and a blanket exercise. As some social work programs do not require child welfare and/or Indigenous history training/education, it is important to provide it to new employees.

The Director of Child Protection, Director of Child & Family Services, Provincial Manager of Child Protection or Provincial Manager of Children's Services, and the Indigenous service team collaborate with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation to discuss and review service delivery impacts in a timely manner. This collaborative relationship strengthens the delivery of Child and Family Services from the senior management level to all levels of service delivery within Child & Family Services.

2. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.

The Government of PEI does not report on ethnic origin of children in care. The provincial population is small, and the subpopulation of Indigenous persons who are in care is below thresholds at which such reporting could compromise confidentiality.

3. We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan’s Principle.

The Government of PEI is the principal funder for services to all children in the legal custody and guardianship of the Director of Child Protection. As such, First Nations children in care on PEI have equitable access to products, services and supports as they need them as per Jordan’s Principle. The *Social Assistance Act* and the *Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act* and its regulations have been amended to exempt “compensation for a harm done” as income under Government of Canada or the province or territory from income under the social assistance and accessibility support programs. This exemption reflects the Human Rights Tribunal Decisions relating to child protection for First Nations children and Jordan’s Principle.

5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

The Cultural Connection Plan was revised in Summer 2021 and will continue to be reviewed, to assist children and youth in care with maintaining or developing a cultural connection while in care.

Culturally appropriate parenting programs for PEI’s First Nations children and families continues to be provided by the MCPEI Child and Family Services, through the Mi’kmaq Family PRIDE program.

EDUCATION

12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

The PEI Early Learning Framework provides direction for directors and educators in Early Years Centres. It includes a component of culture and heritage as a learning goal. The Early Years Centres on-reserve use the federal Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework.

HEALTH

18. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.

The Government of PEI recognizes and acknowledges that previous Canadian government policies negatively impacted the health of Indigenous people and communities. These negative impacts persist today, as Indigenous community members are uniquely at risk, experience different health outcomes, and are disproportionately impacted by chronic conditions. The government is committed to continuously working toward the betterment of Indigenous health care services.

Under the Mi'kmaq-PEI-Canada Partnership Agreement, Health PEI co-chairs the Health Policy and Planning Forum, a tripartite body of federal, provincial, and First Nation leaders with a shared vision to improve health services for the PEI Mi'kmaq. The forum's current priorities include mental health and addictions, home care, primary care, and ehealth. Its work plan, which is guided by the TRC report, is updated and reported on annually.

22. We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.

With respect to cultural healing practices of Indigenous peoples, sites have been directed to consider alternative methods and other elements on a case-by-case basis. Such alternatives are developed with input from Indigenous community groups and on-reserve Wellness Centres, depending on the request of individuals and families and associated risks.

23. We call upon all levels of government to:

- i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.
- ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.
- iii. Provide cultural competency training for all health-care professionals.

Designed in partnership with several Indigenous groups, an Indigenous Cultural Awareness, Sensitivity, and Competency training program has been delivered since 2017. Cultural competency as

well as trauma informed and recovery training offered through the Health PEI mental health and addictions training calendar are available to all First Nations Health Centre staff.

JUSTICE

26. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to review and amend their respective statutes of limitations to ensure that they conform to the principle that governments and other entities cannot rely on limitation defences to defend legal actions of historical abuse brought by Aboriginal people.

In 2021, the *Statute of Limitations Act* was amended to remove the limitation period in civil proceedings for:

- claims of sexual assault or battery;
- certain claims of misconduct of a sexual nature other than sexual assault or battery; and
- certain claims of assault.

30. We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

The Government of PEI continues to monitor the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in custody and ensure culturally responsive programming/initiatives are in place. The Government of Prince Edward Island has a multi-pronged strategic approach to address this issue, including:

- Engagement with police;
- Indigenous Justice Program;
- Improvements to Community and Correctional Services Division;
- Indigenous caseworkers;
- Ensure access to Gladue Reports writing services are available to the Courts; and
- Eagle Feather Initiative.

Community and Correctional Services Division of Justice and Public Safety, in collaboration with the Atlantic Police Academy and Skills PEI, provided a second offering of an Accelerated Correctional

Officer Program that funds two dedicated seats for members of the BIPOC community to address under-representation of Indigenous staff.

31. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.

The Justice and Public Safety currently has a range of community-based programs available. In concert with the Indigenous case worker, division staff offer effective community-based alternatives including an Alternative Measures Program and restorative justice – provincially operated program and through MCPEI.

Programs and services made available through Justice and Public Safety are regularly monitored and evaluated and the government continually supports:

- Sentencing Circles through the MCPEI Indigenous Justice Program; and
- Access to Gladue Report writing services which describe an individual's unique experiences to assist a judge in making an appropriate sentencing decision.

33. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, FASD preventive programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.

Community and Correctional Services supports clients with FASD through its Indigenous case worker who has received divisional training on FASD interventions and worked with the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association to adapt programming.

34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:

- i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.
- ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.

- iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.
- iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.

The Criminal Code of Canada governs sentencing provisions and can only be amended through federal legislative reform. Parole supervision is a Correctional Service Canada responsibility. Through its Community and Correctional Services division, the province delivers supports to offenders and evaluates programs and services to ensure effectiveness.

36. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.

Over the last two years, multiple Turning Point and intimate partner violence intervention and counselling sessions were offered with an Indigenous perspective. Led collaboratively with an Indigenous case worker and Turning Point Facilitator, these trauma-informed care and sessions were developed for cohorts of fewer than people.

Community and Correctional Services adjusted its service delivery to ensure the unique needs of Indigenous clients are met. Adjustments included advocating for and accessing psychological assessments, housing, and medical treatment as well as providing intensive case management supports and coordination.

Community and Correctional Services worked with its Indigenous case worker and other members of the Indigenous community to develop a “History of Trauma in Indigenous Communities” course. This educational material relates to the impact of residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, and other traumatic events that may have contributed to over-representation in the justice system and offer insight into behaviours. This course is intended to provide a more informed understanding of this impact and assist employees in cultural awareness.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure’s Highway Safety Division continues to circulate materials to highlight the importance of reporting suspicious practices along routes and at stops to combat human trafficking. Further, government has ensured that resource material from the Canadian Council of Motor Vehicle Administrators (CCMVA) has been incorporated into Commercial Vehicle Officer training sessions.

38. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.

The government continues to respond to this call to action through its work with the:

- Increased community-based youth justice services through the expanded Student Wellbeing Teams and other increased community youth justice initiatives Gladue Reports; and
- Continued improvements in Child and Family Services.

40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

While not only for Indigenous people, recognizing the disproportionate rate of victimization, the Emergency Enhanced Sexual Assault Services provides victims of sexual assault access to improved trauma-informed care for those survivors who present to any one of the province's four emergency Departments—Justice and Public Safety, Health and Wellness, Health PEI, the Interministerial Women's Secretariat—and law enforcement across PEI.

Arising from a 2021 contribution agreement with Justice Canada, the Department of Justice and Public Safety engaged the MCPEI Indigenous Justice Program to work with the Indigenous community, justice and public safety officials, and several Indigenous offenders to inform the development of the Indigenous Court Work service.

Within the same department, the PEI Family Information Liaison Unit provides various supports to family members of MMIWG, including information about missing loved ones. Since 2020, the unit has funded projects that provide culturally relevant healing practices for Indigenous women. Victim Services operates within the Criminal Justice System, but independently from the Crown Attorney's office, police, and the courts.

Victim Services workers continue to provide services to Indigenous victims of crime by providing information on court procedures and justice services as well as on case-related matters, supporting victims throughout the court process, engaging in safety planning for victims of intimate partner violence, and facilitating applications for criminal injuries compensation as appropriate. Victim Services workers have collaborated with MCPEI and NCPEI, as well as various community members, to provide coordinated and collaborative supports to Indigenous victims of crime.

Victim Services staff has worked with the Aboriginal Women's Association to provide relevant information on services and improve collaboration and connections with Indigenous community members.

Victim Services is a member of the MMIWG Coordinating Committee and the MMIWG Interdepartmental Working Group.

42. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the Constitution Act, 1982, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, endorsed by Canada in November 2012.

In August 2021, the Department of Justice and Public Safety and Justice Canada established an agreement to provide Indigenous Court Work services and contribute to a national network of service providers. The services, which will be available to any Indigenous person in criminal court matters, are intended to reduce some of the barriers to justice for Indigenous peoples by providing culturally responsive supports. Services will be available to all Indigenous peoples in PEI, regardless of their status or where they live.

In December 2021, the department signed an agreement with MCPEI Indigenous Justice Program for delivery of Indigenous Court Work services.

RECONCILIATION

CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

The Government of PEI continues to review and analyze the implications of the UNDRIP legislation tabled by the federal government and monitors federal developments to remain responsive to any information exchange opportunities.

ROYAL PROCLAMATION AND COVENT OF RECONCILIATION

47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

The Government of PEI has aligned its processes to be consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada’s guidance on the honour of the Crown and the Crown’s duty to consult. The province endorses the objective of “reconciliation,” as articulated by the Supreme Court of Canada.

The province does not rely on the Doctrines of Discovery or terra nullius, recognizing that prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America, the land was already occupied by distinctive Aboriginal societies. The province is actively working to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, including through the signing of a Framework Agreement with Canada and the Mi’kmaq of PEI and continue to work collaboratively towards an agreement-in-principle.

EQUITY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM

52. We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and the courts to adopt the following legal principles:

- i. Aboriginal title claims are accepted once the Aboriginal claimant has established occupation over a particular territory at a particular point in time.
- ii. Once Aboriginal title has been established, the burden of proving any limitation on any rights arising from the existence of that title shifts to the party asserting such a limitation.

In the Framework Agreement signed between the province, Canada and the Mi’kmaq of PEI, the parties agreed to discuss various rights-based matters. The province believes that discussion and negotiation is the preferred means of addressing legal uncertainty and promoting reconciliation.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RECONCILIATION

55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:

- i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non- Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.
- ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.
- iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non- Aboriginal people.

- iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
- v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.

The Government of PEI can provide annual reports upon request by the National Council for Reconciliation; however, the province does not report on the number of Indigenous children in care due to confidentiality concerns.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

In December 2021 there was online training offered to Child and Family Services, by the Program Development Team’s Indigenous Program Analyst and led by Naiomi Metallic. There were two half day sessions provided which included an online video and a question and answer period on *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. There is also core training completed for Child Protection Social Workers which is currently under review but includes history and current Indigenous Services Child Protection responsibilities.

The Public Service Commission initiated a series of new training programs such as the Unconscious Bias in the Workplace Webinar, Cross-Cultural Understanding, Dismantling Racism, and Valuing Diversity and Human Rights in the Workplace. The aim of this training is to increase employees’ awareness, knowledge, and understanding of multi-dimensions of diversity and cross-cultural understanding as well as to showcase the positive benefits inclusion brings to the workplace. These highly recognized learning opportunities have received positive feedback from many employees and managers.

The Public Service Commission continues to maintain meaningful and positive working relationships with Indigenous community organizations across the province.

The Public Service Commission continues to encourage staff to attend Indigenous learning events delivered by the Indigenous Relations Secretariat and other Indigenous organizations. Staff are also advised to incorporate Indigenous workshops/courses in their professional development plans.

The Public Service Commission reviewed its Leadership Competencies Framework for the Civil Service to better ensure current leadership and aspiring leaders understand the benefits that diversified teams bring to the workplace, as well as provide them with skills and tools to build cohesive and inclusive teams. A diversity lens was added to the original framework this year.

The commission's Leaders in Action training program has a session specific to Indigenous knowledge and history.

Staff throughout the commission continue to take Gender Based Analysis+ training, which includes a number of sections furthering awareness of topics related to the Indigenous community (discussion of two-spirited community, intersectionality, and how members of the Indigenous community may have different experiences/outcomes in accessing programs and services). In the past year, the entire Taxation and Property Records Division took this training.

In the fall of 2021, the Government of PEI introduced an amendment to the Employment Standard Act to officially recognize September 30, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, as a provincial statutory holiday. Islanders were encouraged to remember the history of residential schools and the intergenerational impacts its legacy has left behind.

On the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, the Government of PEI, through the Indigenous Relations Secretariat, created orange signs to be displayed in the courtyard of the government buildings to educate public service employees on the history of the residential school system in Canada.

The Government of Prince Edward Island, in the spirit of reconciliation and partnership, is committed to advancing awareness of the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island and offer a group of education sessions provided by L'nuey. These included: Mi'kmaq History, Mi'kmaq Culture and Residential Schools, Indigenous Justice, Consultations and the Duty to Consult, L'nuey, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy, and First Nation Governance. In addition, they also provide lunch & learn sessions every Wednesday in October so that public servants could learn about Mi'kmaq history and culture on Epekwitk (PEI). Their guest speakers included Senator Brian Francis, Sarah Bernard, Roseanne Sark and Lori St. Onge.

During the last week in October 2021 and leading up to Treaty Day, the Government of PEI, through the Indigenous Relations Secretariat, sent out "Did you Know" mass emails to all public service employees to learn about Orange Shirt Day, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and Treaty Day.

EDUCATION AND RECONCILIATION

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:

- i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.
- ii. Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.
- iii. Provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
- iv. Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.

The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning provides the “4 Seasons of Reconciliation” training for all educators to bring awareness to diversity and inclusion and provides historical perspective for teaching Indigenous ways of being. Any educator that completes the training receives a certificate from the First Nations University of Canada.

The Language Arts Curriculum committee prioritized the inclusion of diverse perspectives in literature and worked with outside agencies such as the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to evaluate and select titles to be included in classroom libraries for students in grades 7-9.

Social studies curricula for grades K-12 are being improved to include Indigenous history, including residential schools, culture and tradition. Specific training needs for educators are being identified and addressed and best practices for teaching content are shared. The integrated curriculum for grades K-6 includes Indigenous culture and a focus on identity and self-awareness.

Student Wellbeing Teams are present at all public schools and, in part, work to address the needs of on and off reserve Indigenous students. A representative from MCPEI sits on the Student Wellbeing Teams Steering Committee, ensuring that the needs of Indigenous students are considered in the delivery of these services. The teams also work with a MCPEI Transition Coordinator to assist and ensure smooth transition for Indigenous students leaving school on the reserve to attend intermediate school beginning in grade 7. Three Student Wellbeing Team Leads work with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation to provide support for Indigenous students and their families.

The new social studies curriculum for Grades 7-8 will pilot in selected classrooms in the 2022-2023 school year. This renewed curriculum will contain specific curriculum outcomes relating to Indigenous

Canadians and diversity in Canada. As well, the new curriculum will incorporate Indigenous knowledge, ways of knowing and culture.

The DELL established the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee to bring together stakeholders from various organizations to better create and implement Indigenous content into the Prince Edward Island Curriculum by:

- Developing Pedagogy for Indigenous Education
- Preparing Teachers to Teach Indigenous Issues
- Developing Culturally Responsive Curriculum
- Curating Resources For Reconciliation Education

The DELL has recently hired a Diversity Consultant to support the development and delivery of diverse and inclusive curriculum, instruction, assessment and programming.

In collaboration with UPEI's Faculty of Education the DELL has developed teaching materials incorporating the Indigenous Atlas of Canada to teach Indigenous culture and address the issue of MMIWG2+ in Canada.

64. We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders.

The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning provides access to teaching resources and professional development for the teachers at the two private (faith based) schools on PEI but does not provide funding.

MISSING CHILDREN AND BURIAL INFORMATION

71. We call upon all chief coroners and provincial vital statistics agencies that have not provided to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada their records on the deaths of Aboriginal children in the care of residential school authorities to make these documents available to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

There were no residential schools located on PEI, therefore, no missing children or burial information exists.

75. We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

PEI recognizes that even though there was no residential school on the Island, PEI Mi'kmaq children attended residential schools in other jurisdictions. Therefore, they and their families were and are affected. The Indigenous Relations Secretariat is working with the Indigenous Working Group to support and implement strategies as it relates to identification, commemoration, and healing for school survivors and victims.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

77. We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

There are no known documents within the PEI Public Archives related to the Indian Residential Schools.

COMMEMORATION

82. We call upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.

The Government of PEI is exploring opportunities to implement this Call to Action.

SPORTS AND RECONCILIATION

87. We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

There are three Indigenous Hall of Fame members (John Paul, Barney Francis and Michael Thomas). They were all distance runners and three of PEI's most heralded athletes. The province assisted the MCPEI documentary on Island Indigenous athletes, and has been advising on the Michael Thomas run that takes place in Stratford each year.

88. We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

The Province has provided \$153,140 in 2020-21 as part of the Sport Bilateral to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI for the PEI Aboriginal Sport Circle. This funding is aimed at supporting Indigenous communities and individuals for sport opportunities that will have a direct impact on enhancing athlete, coach, official, and/or volunteer development. It will strengthen Indigenous leadership and capacity within the PEI Aboriginal Sport Circle and increase culturally relevant sport programming for Indigenous Islanders, including preparation and training for the North American Indigenous Games.

BEYOND THE TRC CALLS TO ACTION AND MMIWG CALLS FOR JUSTICE

The Government of PEI is continually monitoring each of the individual Calls to Action, even those which have been marked complete in previous years or fall outside the province's jurisdiction. However, the Government of PEI recognizes the challenges in charting progress on the Calls to Action. It is important to note that reconciliation is more than just checking off a box or a tallying exercise on a balance sheet. Reconciliation is an ongoing process, and the Government of PEI is committed to this process.

The path to reconciliation requires steadfast commitment, action, and reflection. The Government of PEI's genuine desire to build and strengthen its relationship with Indigenous people is reflected in its ongoing work, carried out by multiple departments. While the government has made significant movement on several Calls to Action, considerable additional work has been done in other areas to reflect the priorities of the government or opportunities realized.

A comprehensive list of critical work that was completed last year but does not fall under specific Calls to Action follows:

- Mental Health and Addictions partners with Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation communities to provide front-line clinical mental health and addictions services with on-site Health PEI staff. These clinicians provide both direct service to clients and consult with the First Nation MHA staff. Additionally, a half day day/month of psychiatry support is provided to each community.
- Through the provincial Climate Challenge Fund, the Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action provided \$80,190 to Lennox Island for the Netukulimk Education Program to implement a community-based approach to education resource design in renewable energy, and to promote careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics among Indigenous youth. The education modules use a "two-eyed seeing" approach, which aims to balance Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge and practice.
- Efficiency PEI has launched two special projects with each First Nation to address energy efficiency opportunities.
- In October 2021, the Province announced a rural public transit system under the Sustainable Transportation Action Plan. This includes a bus stop at the Ultramar in Abegweit First Nation.
- The Forest, Fish and Wildlife Division has provided support for the Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery in Abegweit First Nation, which has helped to produce Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon for stocking PEI rivers.

- In June 2021, the province completed an 18-month climate change risk assessment. The assessment considered seven climate hazard scenarios and their consequences on health, social stability, environment, infrastructure, and economic sectors. The province engaged with Indigenous people in PEI who shared valuable information and perspectives about the unique risks that climate change pose to Indigenous communities.
- The Computers for Success program, which is delivered through Information Technology Systems and Services (ITSS), refurbishes and distributes computers, equipment and software to not-for-profit organizations and groups. It provided 120 computers to Indigenous groups since April 1, 2021. (Native Council of PEI – 20; Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI – 80; and Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre – 20).
- Through inter-governmental fora, the Department of Justice and Public Safety and Indigenous Relations Secretariat, collaborated with other provinces and territories to contribute to the first National Action Plan in response to the Calls for Justice, which was launched in June 2021.
- On behalf of Justice and Public Safety a number of group and individual interviews with a variety of organizations, (such as the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI and MCPEI), were undertaken as part of the 2021 Midpoint Police Review to assess and incorporate different perspectives of community members.
- The Department of Agriculture and Land has adopted a Guiding Principle for all its Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) Programs, which includes encouraging the participation of Indigenous peoples in agriculture programming.
- In November 2021, the Department Agriculture and Land conducted an outreach session with L'nuey in order to identify instances where Indigenous priorities for agriculture aligned with departmental programs.
- During the 2020/21 fiscal year there were at least 5 individuals who identified as being Indigenous that participated in the Community Food Security Program. This program is designed to promote entrepreneurial development, planning and public education partnerships among community organizations, government and industry which explicitly support PEI residents in obtaining safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diets through a sustainable, local food system that maximizes community self-reliance.
- The Department of Agriculture and Land worked with the Indigenous Relations Secretariat in order to coordinate engagement with respect to projects related to land policy (i.e., modernizing the Lands Protection Act) through its Land Matters Project.
- During 2021, Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture provided various programs and services to support Indigenous groups in areas of advocacy including Indigenous Culture

and Traditions, business growth, employment opportunities, and up-skilled training. The department oversees several Indigenous specific funding programs including, Abegweit First Nations Project – Workforce development and Indigenous Art Bank Collection Program.

- In the 2020 Speech from the Throne, the PEI Government committed to working with First Nations to create wealth and independence in Mi'kmaq communities. To support this commitment, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure assisted with the successful negotiation for the transfer of three parcels of Crown land to the Abegweit First Nation as well as the transfer of ownership of the Mount Pleasant Visitor Information Centre to the Lennox Island Band Council.
- The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Provincial Active Transportation (AT) Funding Program offers funding to Indigenous communities, municipalities, not-for-profits and community groups across PEI to increase AT accessibility, safety, connectivity and awareness.
- The Department of Fisheries and Communities continues to provide project funding for not-for-profits and municipalities including Indigenous communities through the Rural Growth Initiative to help enhance the quality of life of rural residents. This past year 3 projects were funded; expansion of the Lennox Island Hatchery, Nature based learning playground in Lennox Island and the construction of a new economic development building in Abegweit, with a total project contribution of \$184,489.
- The Indigenous Relations Secretariat provided \$51,755 to the Native Council of PEI to review and update the Walking in her Moccasins Bundle (toolkit) with the intent of engaging Indigenous men and boys towards the prevention of gender-based violence.
- The Indigenous Relations Secretariat provided \$50,000 to STEAM PEI to assist in the development of a Creativity Centre in the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils Building to provide a home base for STEAM PEI as well as allow new and expanded programs including more advanced robotics classes and opportunities for special STEAM programs focused on Indigenous knowledge.
- The Indigenous Relations Secretariat provided \$5,000 to the University of PEI Mawi'omi Centre to provide cultural events and workshops for students and training for Mawi'omi staff. The funding was also used to create graduation stoles for Indigenous students who graduated from UPEI.

CONCLUSION

Indian residential schools caused significant impacts on Indigenous families and communities throughout Canada. Some of these impacts continue to resonate and challenge the wellbeing of survivors as well as their families and communities on PEI to this day. This is reflected in the Truth and Reconciliation Final Report:

“Residential schools are a tragic part of Canada’s history. But they cannot simply be consigned to history. The legacy from the schools and the political and legal policies and mechanisms surrounding their history continue to this day. This is reflected in the significant educational, income, health, and social disparities between Aboriginal people and other Canadians. It is reflected in the intense racism some people harbour against Aboriginal people and in the systemic and other forms of discrimination Aboriginal people regularly experience in this country.” (TRC Report 2015, p.183)

Acknowledging this history, reducing intergenerational impacts caused by residential schools, addressing these disparities, and closing these gaps is the path towards meaningful reconciliation. The Government of PEI remains resolute in its commitment to this path and on building its relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities on the Island.