

Dec. 15, 2020

## **Journey to reconciliation**

Five years ago, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report into the lasting impact of Canada's residential school system. As the Commission discovered through years of survivor testimony, residential schools are a dark stain on Canada's past. The schools caused generations upon generations of trauma as Indigenous families were torn apart under the guise of government policy of "assimilation".

The emotional scars of forcing children from their homes, severing them from their families, languages, heritages, and cultures lingers today. These are traumas of cultural genocide that are slow to heal, wounds that cannot always be seen but are always felt. It will take all Canadians working together to make right what has been done in the past.

In the Commission's final event, on December 15, 2015, the Government of Canada committed to work in partnership with Indigenous communities to fully implement recommendations of the commission.

Despite showing that it so much pain was caused in the name of 'education', Commissioner Sinclair also recognized that the pursuit of knowledge can also be a power to heal. Through [ii' taa'poh'to'p](#), our Indigenous Strategy, the University of Calgary is on the path of true transformation. We are embracing new ways of knowing, ways of doing, ways of connecting and ways of being. We are exploring our past, incorporating Indigenous knowledge into our research and practices, breaking down barriers to access education and seeking guidance from our Elders to teach us ancient wisdom that was once silenced.

For the sake of our children, our children's children, and for those who will be born generations from now, the University of Calgary is committed to joining Canadians in accepting responsibility for truth and reconciliation. We are committed to doing things differently where the we are walking on a parallel path with Indigenous peoples in a shared, ethical way. I invite you to join us on this important journey. Learn about the historic legacy of residential schools for all Canadians. Speak out against exclusion, oppression and racism in all its forms. Discover our peoples' knowledge and love of the land, and all that it entails. Take time to know the nations that has existed here for millennia. Come to understanding our continuing ideas, practices and contributions. Contribute to make things different so we all grow in new, positive ways. Join us as so we can journey together in a good way towards reconciliation and transformation.

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