

CATHY BUSBY

WE CALL

The wall texts are abridged versions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action*. Here they are in full:

7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

8. We call upon the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.

10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles: i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation. ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates. iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula. iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses. v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems. vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children. vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.

11. We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.

16. We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university and

college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.

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.

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to: ii. Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.

63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including: iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.

83. We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.

86. We call upon Canadian journalism programs and media schools to require education for all students 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.

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The wall-text paintings in the Teck Gallery at Simon Fraser University highlight the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's *Calls to Action*, which were released in June 2015. For this site-specific work, I selected and edited the calls that are directed towards government agencies responsible for education, post-secondary institutions and cultural organizations.

To learn more about the TRC, refer online to *Honouring the Truth: Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. The TRC's 94 *Calls to Action* are also available online. If you would like to know more about how SFU is responding to the TRC's *Calls to Action*, visit: <https://www.sfu.ca/reconciliation.html>

WE CALL is funded by BC Arts Council and the Canada Council. A parallel installation to the Teck Gallery is being produced in collaboration with the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society in Hazelton, BC.

TECK GALLERY

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2017-18