
(Anishinaabe Aki - December 15, 2021) Today, Yellowhead Institute published the third annual report assessing implementation progress, *Calls to Action Accountability: A 2021 Update on Reconciliation*. This update marks the sixth anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's six-volume [Final Report](#) along with the [94 Calls to Action](#), meant to remedy the ongoing structural legacy of Canada's residential schools and to advance reconciliation in Canada.

Updated Findings

Framed by the recent revelations of thousands of children's graves discovered on the grounds of several residential schools and by signs of a new resolve among Canadians to work toward reconciliation, this year's update finds three new Calls to Action have been completed. However, the update also finds an ongoing failure by the federal government to meaningfully enact the Calls to Action that would alter the disparate realities that Indigenous peoples experience in this country. The update reports that, with each passing year, Canada opts to *perform* reconciliation in an effort to shape a benevolent reputation rather than enact the substantial and structural changes that would rectify ongoing harms and change the course of our collective relationship.

Calls to Action Accountability finds the ongoing barriers to implementing the Calls to Action revolve around paternalism, systemic discrimination, an "us-vs-them" adversarial relationship, a lack of resources, and, most apparent in the 2020 analysis, a preference for symbolic gestures over concrete action.

The update's authors, Dr. Eva Jewell and Dr. Ian Mosby, argue that while these challenges continue to prevent progress on the majority of the Calls to Action, there are relatively straightforward, low-cost, and immediately achievable steps the federal government can take today to implement the Calls to Action.

Quotes

Dr. Ian Mosby: "Huge steps forward could be taken around Calls to Action 2, 9, 19 and 39 in the areas of Child Welfare, Education, Health, and Justice. Each revolve around the establishment of accountability mechanisms, usually in the form of annual reporting requirements. These would enable Canada to set realistic and specific goals for the remaining Calls to Action while also providing the public with the information necessary to hold them to account. In the absence of these mechanisms, though, it's rather hard to take the federal government's own statements about their progress towards completing the Calls to Action seriously."

Dr. Eva Jewell: “Three Calls to Action were completed within a three-week time period following international attention on children’s graves uncovered outside Canada’s Residential Schools. We saw more movement in the three weeks following the revelations this year than we did in the previous three years. The completion of these Calls to Action in 2021 is a start, but future completion has to be more substantial and proactive.”

About the Report

Calls to Action Accountability: A 2021 Update on Reconciliation is meant to hold the Canadian government accountable but is also a resource for Canadians readers; it can be used to learn about the Calls to Action but also to encourage public officials and policymakers to finally and meaningfully act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Actions.

Link to the Report: <https://yellowheadinstitute.org/trc/>

About Yellowhead Institute:

[Yellowhead Institute](https://yellowheadinstitute.org/) is an Indigenous-led research centre based in the Faculty of Arts at X University in Toronto, Ontario. Privileging Indigenous philosophy and rooted in community networks, Yellowhead generates critical policy perspectives, offers accessible resources for communities in pursuit of self-determination, and aims to foster education and dialogue on Indigenous issues in Canada.

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