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# Media Statement

Association of Canadian Deans of Education



# ACDE responds to the TRC

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released its 94 Calls to Action, calling upon all Canadians to co-create positive and respectful relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The Association of Canadian Deans of Education (ACDE), recognizing the many ways in which education was used as a tool of assimilation and oppression of Indigenous peoples, acknowledges its ethical responsibility, as a collective representing educational institutions and those responsible for the preparation of educators in Canada, to work to include truth and reconciliation in all educational spheres in which its members engage. ACDE acknowledges and affirms Senator Murray Sinclair's view that education is the key to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

ACDE further commits, through its constituent members (Canadian faculties, colleges, schools, and departments of education) to create reconciliation opportunities through education, by working to remove barriers to the success and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples; to support Indigenous cultures, knowledge systems, and ways of knowing; to preserve and revitalize Indigenous languages; and to build respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities. ACDE is committed to reviewing the ways in which it can work with its members, related associations such as the Canadian Association for the Study of Indigenous Education (CASIE), and Indigenous communities to ensure that ACDE models truth and reconciliation in the academic community. This commitment to advancing reconciliation is an extension of ACDE's *Accord on Indigenous Education* ([www.ACDEAccords.ca](http://www.ACDEAccords.ca)), released in 2010.



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ACDE members engage in many activities that promote reconciliation in their institutions:

- Recruiting and supporting Indigenous faculty;
- Including Indigenous knowledge in courses and programs across institutions;
- Ensuring that non-Indigenous students, including educator-candidates, are well versed in this history;
- Recruiting, admitting, supporting, retaining, and graduating Indigenous students at all levels; and
- Addressing institutional racism and settler privilege within institutions and programs.

The Association of Canadian Deans of Education comprises faculties, colleges, schools, and departments of education across Canada. Member institutions are responsible for educating the majority of Canada's educators and education-related professionals. ACDE members are committed to leadership in professional and teacher education, educational research, and policy in Canadian universities.