

Native Courtworker & Counselling Association of British Columbia

Statement of Reconciliation

The Native Courtworker & Counselling Association of British Columbia (NCCABC) was founded in 1973 and has been part of the implementation of reconciliation for Indigenous peoples within the justice system for over 45 years.

NCCABC's mission is to provide assistance to Indigenous people in conflict with the law and ensures they participate fully in the justice system through a holistic approach to prevention and intervention. NCCABC achieves this by providing culturally appropriate programs and services to Indigenous peoples and communities consistent with their needs. It is NCCABC's belief that a successful strategy for providing these programs and services, is that they must be client-centered, community-based and a safe place for Indigenous people.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) produced its final report and 94 Calls to Action in 2015 after a 6-year engagement process that collected over 7000 interviews with residential school survivors. Residential schools in Canada were operated in partnership with the Canadian government and the Catholic churches for over 100 years with the last federally funded residential school closing in Saskatchewan in 1996. The legacy of residential schools has left many devastating and intergenerational effects on Indigenous peoples in Canada. One of the key areas where we see the direct (and intergenerational) effects of residential schools is in the over representation of Indigenous peoples in the justice system.

NCCABC agrees with all the Calls to Action and fully supports the meaningful implementation of these Calls to Action across British Columbia and Canada. There are several connections between the Calls to Action and the work of NCCABC. These are largely within the areas of *Health, Justice, and Equity for Indigenous People in the Legal System*. NCCABC approaches justice from a holistic perspective, acknowledging the psychological, physical, social and spiritual aspects of people.

NCCABC has played and continues to play an integral role in ensuring reconciliation is achieved for Indigenous peoples through their important work with Indigenous people within the justice system.

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