

BC ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY RESPONSE NETWORKS

RESOLUTION

With regard to responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's findings and how they influence the way that Community Response Networks work with Aboriginal communities.

Whereas the BC CRN's mandate is to provide information and education about abuse, neglect and self-neglect being experienced by vulnerable adults and to work with community service providers, agencies, and others to support the formation of a coordinated response to abuse, neglect and self-neglect; and

Whereas the BC CRN has developed a protocol "In a Good Way", invited aboriginal leaders to provide insight and education and hosts an ongoing Community of Practice to help the regional mentors behave appropriately when working with aboriginal peoples both on and off reserve; and

Whereas many aboriginal people in British Columbia are suffering from the historical abuses they experienced from former policies and actions (such as residential schools); and

Whereas the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission has addressed the issues and stories of the survivors and has made recommendations to help with the reconciliation which must take place; and

Whereas the BC CRN cannot take on an advocacy role, but can work with the communities to provide a forum for the discussions about remedies for abuse, neglect and self-neglect within their communities

Therefore be it Resolved that

The BC CRN support the statement as written on page 12 in the TRC report as follows:

"Whether one is First Nations, Inuit, Métis, a descendant of European settlers, a member of a minority group that suffered historical discrimination in Canada, or a new Canadian, we all inherit both the benefits and obligations of Canada. We are all Treaty people who share responsibility for taking action on reconciliation."

And further be it Resolved that

The BC CRN and its staff provide, as much as possible, a respectful, safe and supportive environment for the aboriginal peoples of BC to come together to work on their own solutions on how to address abuse, neglect and self-neglect within their communities.

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND

Definitions of Reconciliation:

1. Reconciliation is the act of bringing people together to be friendly again or coming to an agreement.
2. to become friendly with (someone) after estrangement or to re-establish friendly relations between (two or more people)
3. to settle (a quarrel or difference)
4. to make (two apparently conflicting things) compatible or consistent with each other

The Commission defines *reconciliation* as an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships. A critical part of this process involves repairing damaged trust by making apologies, providing individual and collective reparations, and following through with concrete actions that demonstrate real societal change. Establishing respectful relationships also requires the revitalization of Indigenous law and legal traditions. It is important that all Canadians understand how traditional First Nations, Inuit, and Métis approaches to resolving conflict, repairing harm, and restoring relationships can inform the reconciliation process.

As First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities access and revitalize their spirituality, cultures, languages, laws, and governance systems, and as non-Aboriginal Canadians increasingly come to understand Indigenous history within Canada, and to recognize and respect Indigenous approaches to establishing and maintaining respectful relationships, Canadians can work together to forge a new covenant of reconciliation.