

POL101: The Real World in Politics: An Introduction

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Assignment 3: Argumentative Paragraph

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The Canadian government is only partly serious in its dedication to Indigenous peoples' reconciliation efforts because they fail to fulfill the equity of the Indigenous people. The government has neglected to provide them with equitable educational opportunities and resources. The proposal of the First Nations Education Act provided no assurance of equity in resource allocation to empower children in First Nations or provincial schools (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015a, p.148-149). Consequently, the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada concluded in 2015 to suggest 7 Calls to Action for Indigenous education. (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015b, p.320-321). Following the publication, the federal government chose to support the formation of two First Nations school systems and to commit to a significant amount of federal budgetary recommendations for financial support of First Nations students' opportunities and resources (Barrera et al. 2018). This appears to be a huge advancement; however, the Assembly of First Nations (2020) only accredited these efforts as a 'moderate progress'. None of the Calls to Action for Indigenous Education have been completed, and 5 of the 7 Calls to Action have either not been initiated or their intended initiatives have not yet been executed (Barrera et al. 2018; Indigenous Watchdog 2022). As a result, the Canadian education system continues to be institutionally oppressive against Indigenous people, which poses several challenges to their achievements in the country. In 2021, the graduation rate for Aboriginal peoples in Canada remained low, increasing by only 6 percent from 2016, and the educational gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal graduates remained unchanged (Ministry of Education of

British Columbia 2021, p.35). Clearly, despite their partial commitment to reconciliation, the government has failed to improve the access of education for Indigenous people. The lack of progress on Indigenous education calls to action has resulted in the educational achievement gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students remaining unaltered and substantially high even five years after the TRCC report was issued.

*(323 words)*

## **REFERENCES**

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