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APPENDIX A: Relevant Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

We acknowledge that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2008-2015) and the recommendations yielded in this report are the product of work done by the appointed commissioners, the appointed members of the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee (IRSSC), members of the Inuit Sub-Commission, and all those who shared their stories and knowledge regarding the residential school system in Canada. Stories were shared at National events held in major cities from 2010-2014 (with an estimated 155,000 in attendance, including over 9,000 residential school survivors), Regional events in Victoria, Whitehorse, and surrounding communities, and town halls held in conjunction with National and Regional events, where members of the general public were invited to share ideas surrounding their ways of supporting reconciliation, and thoughts on how to provide further support.

Individual statements were gathered from over 6,750 residential school survivors, their family members, and others wishing to share their knowledge of the residential school system. Statements were obtained at Sharing Panels and Sharing Circles at National, Regional, and Community events, as well as through visits to correctional institutions across Canada. Finally, interviews were conducted with former staff of residential schools, as well as their children (2015. “Commission Activities”, Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.)

(“Health”)

We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the healthcare rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.

We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.

In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.

We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.

We call upon those who can affect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.

We call upon all levels of government to:

i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field. ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities. iii. Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals.

24. We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

(”Justice”)

We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry’s mandate would include:

Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

APPENDIX B: Published Indigenous Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Toolkits

Hope, Help, and Healing A Planning Toolkit for First Nations and Aboriginal Communities to Prevent and Respond to Suicide (1)

Assessment and planning toolkit for Suicide Prevention in First Nations Communities (2)

Acting On What We Know: Preventing Youth Suicide in First Nations (3) National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy (4)

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