

Nam Nguyen

Cloud Computing & Blockchain

Student ID: 000520322 – nguyen0465@saskpolytech.ca

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action represents a significant milestone in the journey towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada. It addressed 94 Calls to Action in 2015 to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation in various sectors including Child Welfare, Education, Language and Culture, Health, Justice, Canadian Governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation, Settlement Agreement Parties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System, National Council for Reconciliation, Professional Development and Training for Public Servants, Church Apologies and Reconciliation, Education for reconciliation, Youth Programs, Museums and Archives, Missing Children and Burial Information, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Commemoration, Media and Reconciliation, Sports and Reconciliation, Business and Reconciliation, and Newcomers to Canada. In this essay, I will discuss two specific Calls to Action: number 83, focusing on its potential for easy implementation, and number 63, discussing the challenges and obstacles it may encounter. Additionally, I will outline my commitment to actively participating in the reconciliation process.

From my personal experience visiting the Rемаi Modern art gallery alongside the South Saskatchewan River, I strongly support Call to Action #83, in the section Commemoration. This call urges the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process. The gallery I visited symbolizes the importance of such spaces, providing platforms for Indigenous voices and perspectives to be showcased and celebrated. These spaces not only promote greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures but also encourage dialogue and connection between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, thereby contributing to reconciliation efforts. Moreover, I gained a deep understanding of the culture and found answers to my questions about what, why, and how after visiting the Rемаi Modern, which could be very useful for the younger generation like me to acknowledge the history of Canada and its impact on Indigenous Peoples. Therefore, increased funding for this Call to Action will lead to more knowledge sharing with the community and greater awareness about one of the most interesting subjects in Canada.

On the other hand, Call to Action #63 in the section Education for Reconciliation, which advocates for the creation of culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous children, presents an opportunity for positive change but may face challenges in its implementation. While

early childhood education is widely acknowledged as crucial, it is essential to consider the diverse desires and interests of Indigenous children. For instance, my Indigenous friend has a passion for art, while another prefers entrepreneurship over involvement in political or academic subjects. This highlights the need for educational programs that are tailored to individual interests and talents, rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach. Additionally, the information for each subject in the program will be very controversial due to the differences between Indigenous Peoples in each area. It will be hard to decide which courses will be taught and which ones will be left behind. Incorporating all cultures, requires commitment not only from the Federal Government but also from every Indigenous Peoples, and this process could take up to decades.

As an international student, a minority person, and an active participant in reconciliation, I commit my time and resources to education, advocacy, and support of this Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada. I am willing to educate myself further on Indigenous histories, cultures, and controversial issues, actively listening to Indigenous voices and perspectives. Additionally, I will advocate for policies and initiatives that promote Indigenous rights, equality, and justice, using my voice and privilege to amplify Indigenous voices and support Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, I'll continue to listen to my friends who are Indigenous Peoples, engaging in open dialogue, and seeking to understand their needs and experiences. Through these conversations, I aim to increase my understanding of Indigenous perspectives and contribute to the ongoing process of reconciliation in a meaningful and respectful manner. However, I am also against any efforts to slow down this process or prevent justice from being restored to the Indigenous Peoples.

In conclusion, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action provide a roadmap for advancing reconciliation in Canada. While some actions may be easier to implement than others, each presents an opportunity to address the injustices faced by those who suffered in the past. By recognizing the challenges, respecting diverse perspectives, and committing to ongoing engagement, we can collectively work towards healing, understanding, and building a brighter future for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in this beautiful country.