



National Centre *for*  
Truth *and* Reconciliation

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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

**2023 Pre-Budget Submission to the House of  
Commons Finance Committee**

**October 5, 2022**

## Recommendations

**Recommendation #1:** That the Federal Government provide \$1 million to commemorate the 2023 Truth and Reconciliation Week.

**Recommendation #2:** That the Federal Government provide \$500,000 to support the 2023 Imagine A Canada Through the Lens of Reconciliation (IAC) events.

**Recommendation #3:** That the Federal Government provide \$2 million to support Call to Action #78 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

## **About the NCTR**

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) was created in 2015 as part of the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The TRC was given the responsibility to listen to Survivors, their families, communities and others affected by the residential school system and to educate Canadians about their experiences. The resulting collection of statements, documents and other materials now form the sacred heart of the NCTR. Our mandate ensures Survivors, and their families, have access to their own history while preserving their truths for all of Canada, for all time.

The NCTR is a place of learning and dialogue where the truths of the residential school experience will be honoured and kept safe for future generations. We preserve the record of these human rights abuses and promote continued research and learning on the legacy of residential schools. Our goal is to honour Survivors and to foster Reconciliation and healing on the foundation of truth telling.

The NCTR is hosted by the University of Manitoba and is governed by its own Governing Circle operating with the guidance of a Survivors Circle, which includes Inter-Generational Survivors.

## **2022 Budget Commitments**

The NCTR was extremely pleased with the commitments in the 2022 budget towards the construction and operation of a new permanent home for the NCTR, along with increased support related to missing children and unmarked graves and the full disclosure of federal documents related to residential schools.

Work is progressing on the permanent home, with a site selected on the campus of the University of Manitoba. A blessing has taken place at the site and consultations are ongoing on the design of the home. It has always been our vision to establish a permanent home for the NCTR worthy of its place in Canada's past, present, and future.

The financial support offered in the 2022 budget will allow us to fulfill our vision of constructing a new building to house the existing sacred items, five million historical records, and seven thousand Survivor statements gathered during the TRC – along with many other sacred items and documents that will be gathered in the years to come.

Our vision for the new NCTR home will also include an international learning lodge where Survivors, their families, all Canadians and people from around the world can come to learn about residential schools and the human rights of Indigenous peoples that must be fulfilled to prevent future human rights atrocities and to address the harms of the past abuses that continue to impact Indigenous peoples.

In the meantime, as more unmarked graves are discovered and more residential school records are turned over from the Federal Government and Churches, the additional funds announced in the 2022 budget will help the NCTR keep up with the growing need to serve Survivors, their families and the many nations that need their records in their hands.

### **2023 Recommendations**

The NCTR offers the following recommendations for the 2023 budget.

#### ***Recommendation #1: That the Federal Government provide \$1 million to commemorate the 2023 Truth and Reconciliation Week.***

As the Canadian public comes to terms with a new understanding of our shared past, Truth and Reconciliation Week is an opportunity for all Canadians to embark on a new journey of healing that includes unlearning and relearning, and of instilling pride and honour around the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This annual event sets a precedent each year regarding Reconciliation in Canada, righting past wrongs and creating a new future for the generations to come.

Therefore, we ask that the Federal Government provide \$1 million to commemorate the 2023 Truth and Reconciliation Week. Past support of this initiative has come from the Commemorate Canada program of Canadian Heritage.

#### ***Recommendation #2: That the Federal Government provide \$500,000 to support the 2023 Imagine A Canada Through the Lens of Reconciliation (IAC) events.***

Imagine A Canada Through the Lens of Reconciliation (IAC) is a national educational event organized by NRTC. The events involve young people across Canada from kindergarten to grade 12 leading discourse to empower them to be the change they want to see in the world. The events encourage students to be leaders in Reconciliation and to make the future of Canada a more respectful place. Students can share their vision of what Reconciliation can be through a poem, a song, a painting, a sculpture, a rap, a drawing, an essay – anything! Each piece of art is displayed by the NCTR and honored for what the art represents.

To support this initiative in 2023, the NCTR is requesting \$500,000 in the next budget.

#### ***Recommendation #3: That the Federal Government provide \$2 million to support Call to Action #78 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.***

TRC Call to Action #78 states that “We call upon the Government of Canada to commit to making a funding contribution of \$10 million over seven years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, plus an additional amount to assist communities to research and

produce histories of their own residential school experience and their involvement in truth, healing, and Reconciliation.”

The Government has provided the initial \$10 million to support NCTR’s work, as stated in TRC Call to Action #78. Moving forward, we recommend the Federal Government provide \$2 million so the NCTR can begin working with communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experiences, thereby fulfilling Call To Action #78.

The existing histories of residential schools are provided through an individual lens based on the experience of individual Survivors, or through the government lens with the narratives developed as part of the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) claims process. The development of community histories of residential schools is critical to ensure Indigenous peoples and communities shape how the residential school era is understood and remembered.

### **Conclusion**

The NCTR thanks the Finance Committee for the opportunity to file this submission and would be pleased to appear before Members when in-person hearings begin, particularly when the Committee travels to Winnipeg.

The NCTR would also like to invite all Members to visit us, either during your Committee’s travel to Winnipeg or any other time you find yourself in the area.