

ONE STEP ON A JOURNEY



The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and
the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) - Lessons Learned

Executive Summary of the Final Report - 2019

Lessons Learned

BACKGROUND In 2018, Parties who were signatories to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) agreed to collaborate on a formal lessons learned exercise with the objective of reflecting on the IRSSA to inform ongoing resolution and reconciliation activities. Each Party (Churches, Government, Indigenous Organizations, Survivors) was asked to conduct its own “internal” exercise in order to bring party-specific reports to the full table. This document represents some of the results of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) Lessons Learned Exercise and themes for how to move forward with reconciliation.

Impacts & Concerns

32

Online survey respondents

11

Participants in Survivors’ Sharing Circle

10

One-on-one interviews

Positive Impacts on the ACC	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment and work of the Primate’s Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice • The establishment and work of the Vision Keepers Council • The naming of a Jubilee Commission re funding structure for the self-determining Indigenous Anglican Church • The ongoing work of the Anglican Healing Fund • The naming of a National Indigenous Anglican Bishop and the passing of Canon XXII • The hiring of a full-time Reconciliation Animator • The emergence of the Anglican Territory of the People • The creation of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh, and its Northern Manitoba Area Mission • Consecration of 9 Indigenous Bishops • The emerging self-determining Indigenous Anglican Church within the ACC • Anti-racism programming • Education regarding the TRC, historical and current effects of colonization • The Suicide Prevention program • Advocacy on Bill C-262 and other individual TRC 94 Calls to Action • Full-length documentary film on the Doctrine of Discovery produced by Anglican Video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the challenge of changing the hearts of “the whole church”, “down to the pews” • Little recognition and understanding regarding institutionalized racism in the church and the inactivity of the Anti-Racism Working Group of the Council of General Synod • Reconciliation being seen as “programmatic” and not as a need for systemic change • Lack of understanding about Indigenous traditions, culture and spirituality • Many parish clergy not getting involved/building relationships in local Indigenous communities • Lack of ongoing safe spaces for Indigenous people to tell their stories and be listened to “over and over as long as it takes” • Need for Bishops to have the power to appoint Indigenous representatives to things outside the canonical/electoral process • Insufficient system for training for “reconcilers” at the grass-roots level • Reduction of the budget of the Anglican Healing Fund • Lack of understanding re Indigenous Anglican self-determination and how non-Indigenous Anglicans can support it • Ongoing issue that many Indigenous clergy are unpaid, non- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Indigenous translations of materials, or translations are “handmade but sitting next to the “glossy” English ones.



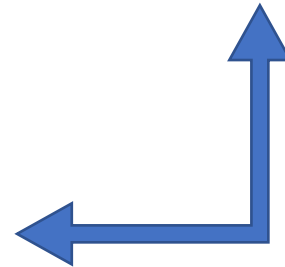


Looking to the Future - Reconciliation Within and More Widely

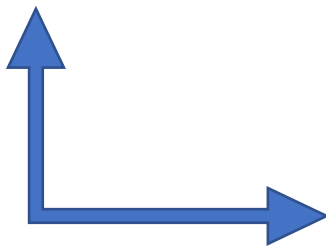
Within the Anglican Church, it is apparent that the signing of the IRSSA marked a break in relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples within the ACC [see [full report](#) for background details]. While some healing has taken place, it became clear in the responses to this Exercise that there is a need to return to the 1994 Covenant ("[A Covenant and our Journey of Spiritual Renewal](#)"), the associated [Pinawa Declaration](#) and [Mississauga Declaration](#) which followed thereafter and the 2014 document "[Where We Are Today: Twenty Years after the Covenant, an Indigenous Call to the Wider Church](#)" in order to pursue "internal" reconciliation in the ACC. Practical ways of living into the Covenant would include:

- 1. New, creative, sustainable funding for and partnership with Indigenous Ministries/the self-determining Indigenous Anglican Church*
- 2. Renewed commitment to anti-racism work at the National Church level*
- 3. Ongoing education of Anglicans on the history and legacy of the IRS, treaties, Indigenous rights/self-determination and current manifestations of racism and colonialism.*

RECONCILIATION WITHIN THE ACC



RECONCILIATION MORE WIDELY



Continued efforts at reconciliation between the ACC and Indigenous peoples more broadly emerged as a separate but inter-related theme. While Indigenous Anglicanism is strong, there are many Indigenous people and communities with whom the Anglican Church has no relationship. What is the ACC's role in healing and relationship-building with these communities? Some answers include:

- 1. Intentional and sustained funding for the Anglican Healing Fund*
- 2. Continued advocacy in Indigenous-led movements for Indigenous inherent rights*
- 3. The building of a stronger national network of local reconciliation work*



The Next Step is Yours!

Read the full report at <https://www.anglican.ca/apllreport/>

Learn more about reconciliation in the Anglican Church of Canada at: <https://www.anglican.ca/tr/reconciliation-toolkit/>

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