



CSLA Statement on Reconciliation and the Profession of Landscape Architecture

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ABOUT THE CSLA

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) is a professional organization with landscape architect members, associate (or intern) members and student landscape architecture members. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA is an advocate for its members on issues such as urban design, urban renewal, sustainable development, climate change and cultural heritage.

In 2015 the CSLA and its nine provincial, regional, and territorial component associations ratified the Canadian Landscape Charter (CLC). Through the CLC, the CSLA upholds the following core principles:

- Recognize landscapes as vital
- Consider all peoples
- Inspire stewardship
- Show leadership
- Expand knowledge

Learn more about the Canadian Landscape Charter: www.csla-aapc.ca/charter



These core principles are the foundation on which the CSLA's Reconciliation Advisory Committee (RAC) was founded, originally as a Task Force, on November 6th, 2016.

The RAC was mandated to consider the Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) "to guide the CSLA in improving awareness and capacity for supporting Canada's First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples through landscape architecture and land use planning within our leadership, membership and schools of landscape architecture."

Learn more about the Reconciliation Advisory Committee:
www.csla-aapc.ca/mission-areas/rac

ABOUT THE STATEMENT

The statement is based on input gathered from an environmental scan of CSLA provincial, regional and territorial component associations, universities, related professional associations, Indigenous organizations and practitioners, and CSLA members.

The CSLA acknowledges and appreciates the invaluable contributions provided by the RAC and member volunteers who participated in the environmental scan research.



THE STATEMENT

The profession of landscape architecture can contribute to the national effort towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Landscape architecture offers an interdisciplinary approach that considers our environment in a holistic manner. The principles and goals of landscape architecture in Canada are well aligned with many of the values among Canada's Indigenous cultures.

Incorporation and consideration of Indigenous peoples, their values, their voices, and their knowledge in the planning, design and management of the Canadian landscape should be the goal of all landscape architects.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission defines 'reconciliation' as the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples.

For that to happen, there has to be:

- acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted,
- awareness of the past and atonement for the causes, and
- action to change behaviour.

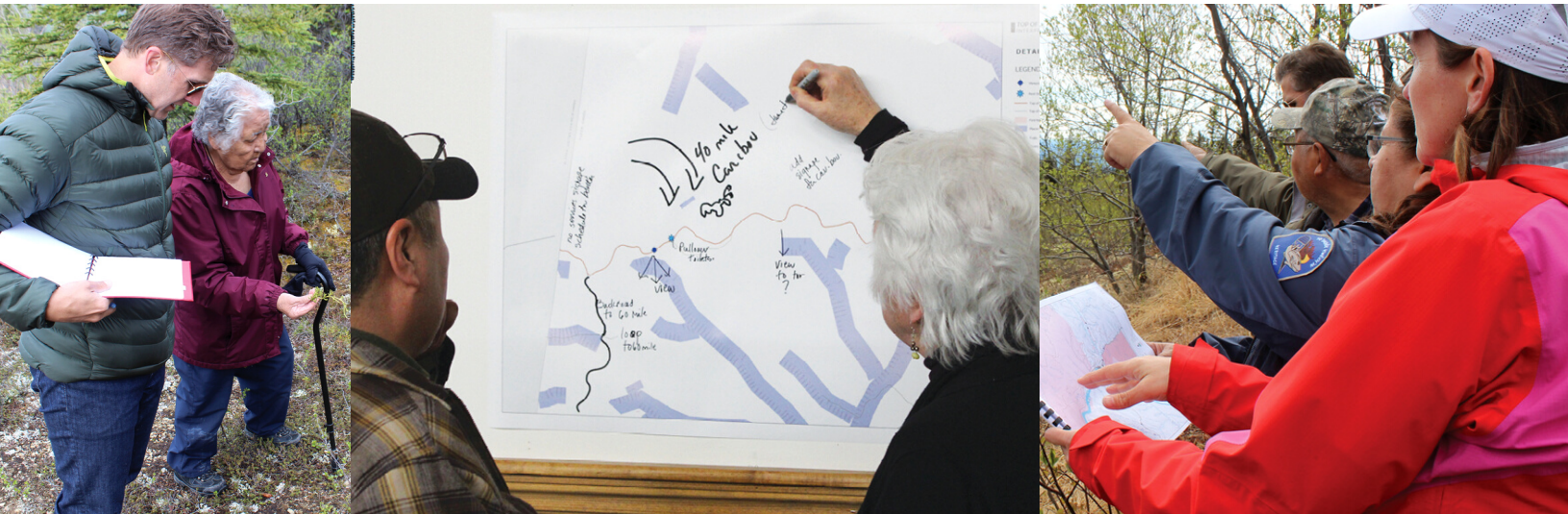


THE CSLA'S RECONCILIATION PILLARS

Acknowledgement - We recognize and respect the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada; and the truth that has been and continues to be lived by every First Nations, Inuit or Métis person and community. We acknowledge that the profession of landscape architecture has participated in the neglect and suppression of Indigenous histories and places in Canada. As Canadians, and as a profession, we share responsibility to positively contribute to the process of reconciliation. Through the vision and principles of the CSLA's RAC Action Plan, we aim to acknowledge those responsibilities.

Awareness - Through our policies, programs, advocacy, education, and outreach, the CSLA seeks to affirm the landscapes of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada as vital to the process of reconciliation. As landscape architects it is our responsibility to be capable partners with Indigenous Peoples of Canada. We need to be aware of our biases, prejudices, values, world views and the effect those have on our work; and be aware of, acknowledge, understand, and seek to integrate the histories, values and worldviews of Indigenous people.

Action - The CSLA will develop and support initiatives that encourage establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, the CSLA, members of the CSLA, and schools of landscape architecture.



The profession's vision for reconciliation is a Canada where the CSLA, provincial, territorial, and regional component associations, members, and schools of landscape architecture:

- acknowledge the histories, identities, cultures and rights of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples of Canada.
- achieve awareness and understanding of Indigenous peoples, landscapes, cultures, rights and issues, opportunities and challenges.
- are effective participants in the process of reconciliation.





RECONCILIATION PRINCIPLES

The CSLA, which represents the profession of landscape architecture in Canada, pledges to uphold the following reconciliation principles:

- 1. Expanding Knowledge:** By increasing our understanding of Indigenous peoples, cultures, histories, values and world views.
- 2. Recognizing Indigenous Landscapes:** By ensuring that the landscapes of Indigenous Peoples of Canada are understood and respected for their geographic, cultural, historic, heritage, social, aesthetic, economic and environmental values, whether as cultural and/or natural features, or as physical and/or abstract entities, whether they are wild, rural or urban, and by creating opportunities for continual dialogue.
- 3. Respecting Indigenous Peoples of Canada:** By increasing the awareness and understanding of the rights, traditional values, knowledge systems and practices of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, particularly those which relate to customary stewardship of the land, and by considering these values and practices in design, planning, and management.

4. Being Inspired by Indigenous Landscape Stewardship: By engaging with Indigenous people to learn about Indigenous knowledge systems and land use practices, Treaty and land rights, governance, self-determination and Indigenous law.

5. Showing Leadership: By inspiring through relationships, knowledge development and sharing, collaboration and outreach amongst First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada, CSLA, members of the CSLA, and our schools of landscape architecture.

