

Reconciliation Advisory Committee (RAC)

ACTION PLAN

APPROVED BY THE CSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ON NOVEMBER 5TH, 2018



CSLA | AAPC

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects
Association des architectes paysagistes du Canada

“The road we travel is equal in importance to the destination we seek. There are no shortcuts. When it comes to truth and reconciliation, we are all forced to go the distance.”

-Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, to the Canadian Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, September 28, 2010

strategic actions, timelines and key performance indicators for 2019-2021

Foreword

In 2015 the component associations of the CSLA ratified the Canadian Landscape Charter (CLC)ⁱ. Through the CLC, the CSLA upholds the following Core Principles:

Recognize landscapes as vital: By ensuring that all landscapes are understood and respected for their geographic, cultural, heritage, social, aesthetic, economic and environmental values, whether as cultural and/or natural features, or as physical and/or abstract entities. By ensuring that all landscapes are considered, from the most precious and well-known to the most ignored and spoiled, whether they are wild, rural or urban.

Consider all peoples: By increasing the awareness and understanding of the traditional values, ecological knowledge and practices of the various Canadian communities, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, which relate to customary stewardship of the land, and by considering these values and practices in both management and design.

Inspire stewardship: By embracing new knowledge, practices and tools together with traditional ecological knowledge and practices.

Show leadership: By inspiring through principles, guidelines and metrics, exchanges on the subject of landscape amongst institutions, complementary disciplines and the general population across Canada; and by encouraging knowledge development and sharing, recognition of best practices, collaboration and outreach amongst multidisciplinary practitioners.

Consistent with these principles, the CSLA Board of Directors established (on Nov 6, 2016) the Indigenous Issues Task Force (IITF) to consider the Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) under the following mandate: “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.” On November 5th, 2018, the CSLA Board of Directors approved a motion to rename the Indigenous Issues Task Force the Reconciliation Advisory Committee (RAC) and approved an action plan for the RAC.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

The TRC was established in 2007 as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the largest class-action settlement in Canadian historyⁱⁱ. The ultimate goal of the TRC is to open up pathways of reconciliationⁱⁱ.

In 2015 the TRC released its Final Report including 94 Calls to Action, directed to all levels of government, all sectors of Canadian society and business, and all citizens of Canada to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. On December 15, 2015, when formally accepting the final report on behalf of Government of Canada, Prime Minister Trudeau committed to fully implement the TRC’s Calls to Action, recognizing “that true

reconciliation goes beyond the scope of the Commission's recommendations, and committed to renewing Canada's nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples based on "recognition, rights, respect, cooperation and partnership."ⁱⁱⁱ

"In the face of growing conflicts over lands, resources, and economic development, the scope of reconciliation must extend beyond residential schools to encompass all aspects of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relations and connections to the land." (TRC, Executive Summary p. 190)^{iv}

CSLA Reconciliation Vision

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. Building on common goals and values, this discussion paper identifies knowledge and relationship gaps around Indigenous issues within our profession and recommends a staged action plan 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.

The CSLA's Vision for Reconciliation is a Canada where:

- The CSLA, 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.
- The CSLA, Component Associations, members, and Schools of Landscape Architecture achieve awareness and understanding of Indigenous peoples, landscapes, culture, rights and issues, opportunities and challenges.
- The CSLA, Component Associations, members, and Schools of Landscape Architecture are effective participants in the process of reconciliation.

The CSLA objectives to implement this vision include:

- Incorporation and consideration of Indigenous peoples, their values, their voices, and their knowledge in the planning, design and management of the Canadian landscape
- Genuine and positive engagement between Indigenous Peoples of Canada and Landscape Architects on the management, planning and designs that affect First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples of Canada and their landscapes.
- Increased participation of Indigenous people in the profession of landscape architecture.
- Providing leadership and information on the Calls to Action and reconciliation for our Component Associations and members through communications, collaborations and strategic partnerships.
- Advocating for the profession of landscape architecture on Indigenous issues of national importance and Indigenous landscape.

CSLA Reconciliation Principles

Guided by the TRC and in keeping with the CSLA mandate, the principles of the Canadian Landscape Charter, and the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan: Raise the Profile of Landscape Architecture in Canada and Abroad, the following CSLA Reconciliation Principles will be upheld:

Recognize 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.*

Respect 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, which relate to customary stewardship of the land, and by considering these values and practices in both management, planning and design.*

Be Inspired by Indigenous landscape stewardship: *By engaging with Indigenous people to learn about Indigenous traditional Indigenous knowledge systems and land use practices, Treaty and Land Claim rights and self-determination, and legal context.*

Show leadership: *By inspiring through relationships, knowledge development and sharing, recognition of best practices, collaboration and outreach amongst the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada, CSLA, members of the CSLA, and our Schools of Landscape Architecture.*

Pillars of the Action Plan

“To the Commission, ‘reconciliation’ is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal peoples in this country” (What We Have Learned, Principles p. 113)v. 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 Pillars of the CSLA Reconciliation Action Plan are Acknowledgement, Awareness and Engagement.

Acknowledgement

We recognize and respect the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada; the Truth that has been and continues to be lived by every First Nations, Inuit or Métis person and community. Every Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadian has a responsibility to our shared vision of reconciliation. Through the vision and principles of the CSLA’ action plan, we aim to acknowledge our responsibilities:

- *As a professional organization:* To affirm the CSLA Reconciliation Action Plan as our policy responding to the TRC Calls to Action by our profession.
- *As a professional organization:* To articulate the principles and values of our profession to respond to the Calls to Action through our programs, activities and actions for reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and their landscapes
- *As a professional organization:* To build bridges between our profession and Indigenous Peoples of Canada
- *As a professional organization:* To provide opportunities for future generations of Indigenous Landscape Architects
- *As individual members of the CSLA:* To acknowledge and support the capacity of indigenous communities to enact self-determination through the design and planning of their communities and landscapes

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 and understand the values, worldviews of Indigenous people:

- *As a professional organization:* To take actions to broaden awareness of Indigenous rights, landscapes, and topics, particularly as they relate to landscape architecture, and implement actions that will move the profession towards reconciliation through programming at our Congress; continuing education in cultural awareness and best practices, and through *Landscapes/Paysages* magazine
- *As a professional organization:* To support the actions of our Schools of Landscape Architecture to respond to the Calls to Action; through the LACF consider opportunities to support Indigenous enrollment and completion of landscape architecture degrees and landscape technical diplomas, and support research that responds to the priorities of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada.
- *As individual members of the CSLA:* To seek knowledge of the culture, history, and practices of the Indigenous Peoples to inform ourselves through continuing education, self-study, experience, and guidance from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada.
- *As individual members of the CSLA:* To increase our appreciation and understanding of Indigenous perspectives and issues to open pathways for reconciliation.
- *As individual members of the CSLA:* We must learn how to practice reconciliation in our everyday lives and commit to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships.

Engagement

The CSLA is committed to supporting 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.

- *As a professional organization:* To develop partnerships and sharing with Indigenous organizations, groups and communities, and our Allied professions.
- *As a professional organization:* To invite and encourage participation and partnerships by First Nations, Inuit and Metis People in Congress, *Landscape/Paysages*, and our advocacy activities related to Indigenous landscape topics and other topics of shared importance to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and Landscape Architects.
- *As a professional organization:* To share information and resources in relation to the TRC, Indigenous topics, Indigenous landscapes, and best practices in Indigenous engagement.
- *As a professional organization:* To encourage Schools of Landscape Architecture to engage with Indigenous organizations, groups and communities in relationships that respond to the needs and interests identified from Indigenous perspectives.
- *As individual members of the CSLA:* To increase our professional and volunteer support activities related to Indigenous landscape topics and other topics of shared importance to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and Landscape Architects.

THE CSLA'S RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) ACTION PLAN

ACTION	TIME-LINE	LEAD	TASKS AND DELIVERABLE	RESOURCES REQUIRED
1. National Engagement, Action and Advocacy				
a) Engage with indigenous communities	2019	RAC ExCom	Engage with national and regional indigenous organizations and landscape architects or related professionals who are leaders within their community. Deliverables include: a) Document compiling insights gained from engagement sessions b) Memorandum of understanding	Forum for hosting national indigenous organization representatives
b) Speak out and take a position for the profession	2018-2019	RAC Board	Approve a CSLA Reconciliation Advisory Committee (replacing the task force) DONE: APPROVED BY CSLA BOARD NOVEMBER 5 TH , 2018 Recommend that the Chair of the Committee carry the title of reconciliation representative on the Board (in a similar role to the IFLA delegate). Would attend Board meetings as required. Approve a national statement by the CSLA on a response for the profession to the calls to action. Prepare and promote a position paper: _Promote position paper online, in bulletin, in LP magazine, etc. _Integrate the position paper into future briefs submitted to the standing committee on finance _Present the position paper during meetings with MPs and other government officials Deliverables include: a) Formation of the CSLA Reconciliation Advisory Committee b) Selection of Committee Chair and reconciliation representative on the CSLA Board c) Engagement with national and regional Indigenous organizations to inform the Position Paper d) Published Position Paper	Budget for travel and other expenses to be established. Engagement with indigenous communities to inform national statement. Engagement with indigenous communities to inform position paper.
c) Develop strategic partnerships	2019-2020	RAC	Partner with existing CIP committees in related professional associations and share knowledge, such as CIP's Indigenous Community Planning Committee Support the process of reconciliation through strategic partnerships with national Indigenous leadership organizations and related professional associations Contribute to the creation of sustainable development objectives and best practices of Assembly of First Nations and other national and regional indigenous organizations Participate in strategic conferences and events and invite interdisciplinary presenters working with indigenous groups to CSLA conferences and events Deliverables include: a) Symposium held with related professional association indigenous committees	Symposium could be held within a CSLA Congress. Staff time, meeting rooms, coordination, etc. Travel funds

			<p>b) Working committee with related organisations</p> <p>c) Creation of formal links to national indigenous leadership organizations and selection of committee member(s) to liaise with these organizations</p> <p>d) Presentations, networking, involvement</p>	
d) Engage our component associations	2019-2020	RAC Component s	<p>Prepare an information kit (or resource forum on the CSLA website) for component associations</p> <p>Encourage component associations to address reconciliation in their own strategic plans and develop strategic partnerships with regional Indigenous organizations</p> <p>Use the Component President's Roundtable forum to advance the CSLA Reconciliation Action Plan</p> <p>Create avenues to receive feedback from component associations and region specific information</p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <p>a) Information kit and development of a presentation to be given at component events.</p> <p>b) Presentations, networking, involvement</p>	<p>Website programming</p> <p>Travel funds, training</p>
e) Promote landscape architecture to Indigenous communities.	2019-2021	RAC Advocacy Committee	<p>Use WLAM to develop an education and outreach program with Indigenous communities across the country to introduce Indigenous youth to the profession of landscape architecture.</p> <p>Promote the profession to indigenous students attending post-secondary schools as a career path that empowers them to have positive impacts on their communities and the world around them</p> <p>Deliverables include an outreach program</p>	<p>To be determined: video, presentations, other marketing materials</p>
f) Programming at yearly Congress	2019 and onwards	RAC Congress Planning Committee	<p>Organize panels for each of the strategies: Engagement, awareness and acknowledgement</p> <p>Sessions could include:</p> <p>_Programming messages related to acknowledgement and awareness topics</p> <p>_Panels with landscape architects and indigenous collaborators and clients focusing on how the principles of engagement, awareness and acknowledgement could apply</p> <p>_ use York Factory as an example</p> <p>_Case studies in a casual setting, open up the floor to Q and A</p> <p>_Working meeting or roundtable with components and this Committee , perhaps during the component presidents roundtable (2019) or doing a session with reps from each component who are working with indigenous issues.</p> <p>_Schools:</p> <p>Ask how to change the priorities in indigenous research and education</p> <p>_On the Ground: Assiniboine Park and Stanley Park both working with First Nations groups: park board members and city officials could be featured in a discussion about reconciliation, and the implications for practitioners.</p>	<p>Space on Congress programs</p> <p>Travel funds for invited speakers or workshop leaders.</p>
2. Integrate information about Indigenous Issues into the CSLA's existing systems and structures				

<p>a) Utilize existing CSLA platforms and create opportunities to share information on indigenous topics, which would include Indigenous history, current conditions and issues facing Indigenous communities, Indigenous landscapes, duty to consult, culturally appropriate consultation practices, protocol, and the legal rights of Indigenous People in Canada</p>	<p>2020-2021</p>	<p>RAC</p>	<p>Develop a web page of resources on the CSLA web site</p> <p>Review the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People to understand its recommendations, applicability, and recommend to the board whether or not to endorse it.</p> <p>Share resources through social media</p> <p>Promote the work of landscape architects with indigenous communities through social media</p> <p>Publish articles on Indigenous Issues in LP magazine</p> <p>Dedicate an entire L/P issue to reconciliation: DONE – Fall 2019 LP magazine</p> <p>Dedicate a CSLA Congress to the issue: DONE – 2019 Congress in Vancouver</p> <p>Use WLAM as an opportunity to promote the issue</p> <p>Work with the Committee on Climate Adaptation to bring awareness to effect of climate change on Indigenous communities to our members</p> <p>Discuss the objectives of the truth & reconciliation process, and outline the protocols that LA's should be aware of when entering into a planning or design process</p> <p>Deliverables include: a) Online resources, social media, access to Congress programming, LP magazine, bulletin b) Information documents, guidelines, etc.</p>	<p>Ability to update information regularly (annually) Graphic design, communications and marketing expenses.</p>
<p>b) Engage CSLA board, committee chairs, component presidents, members, LACF with an introduction to Indigenous Issues</p>	<p>2019-2020</p>	<p>RAC Board</p>	<p>Introductory session on cultural awareness, indigenous issues, and recent developments relevant to the field for the board of the CSLA, committee chairs and component presidents.</p> <p>Identify continuing education requirements and opportunities</p> <p>Inform members of external services offered through national Indigenous organizations to bring landscape architects into certification and continuing education programs (e.g. Aboriginal Awareness Training online – Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business certification for “Progressive Aboriginal Relations-PAR”).</p> <p>Host a summit meeting in an Indigenous community</p> <p>Recommend that the LACF establish a fund for Indigenous research, grants and scholarships for Indigenous students and research projects.</p>	<p>Training funds Meeting expenses</p>
<p>c) Celebrate Indigenous Projects in our awards</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>RAC</p>	<p>Either through the Awards of Excellence (work with the existing awards categories and add some criteria for recognizing the value of Indigenous projects, engagement,</p>	

		Awards of Excellence Committee	research, policy etc. as a measured criterion during jury deliberation), or by a separate award such as a legacy project award or community award	
d) Explore the provision of the services of landscape architects to Indigenous communities in need	2020-2021	RAC Members at large	Organize and support delegations of landscape architects to visit Indigenous communities and host charrettes to improve living conditions in communities in need Deliverables include the development of a program	Travel funds, meeting funds
3. Engage the schools of landscape architecture				
a) Integrate Reconciliation into the curriculum at all Schools of Landscape Architecture	2020-2021	RAC LAAC	Working with the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council (LAAC) and Schools of Landscape Architecture, identify the requirements for an Indigenous studies programs (TRC and UNDRIP recommendations re: education, awareness, curriculum, access to education; bursaries, scholarships) relevant to Indigenous landscapes, stewardship, and landscape architecture. Working with the schools, identify approaches to integrate Reconciliation into the core curriculum so every new Landscape Architect graduates with a basic knowledge in this area of practice, such as lecture series, Indigenous programming, coordination, etc. Support the efforts of schools to attract Indigenous students to landscape architecture.	Meeting expenses Travel funds
b) Encourage communication between schools' leadership to pursue Reconciliation	2020-2021	RAC	Support an annual roundtable meeting for Schools of Landscape Architecture to discuss issues and share information.	Travel funds
c) Offer a scholarship to an Indigenous student studying landscape architecture	2019-2021	RAC	Encourage the LACF to set up a scholarship for and Indigenous student(s) in landscape architecture.	

ⁱ <http://www.csla-aapc.ca/canadian-landscape-charter>

ⁱⁱ Schedule N of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement: Appendix 1 to TRC Executive Summary Report

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/12/15/statement-prime-minister-release-final-report-truth-and-reconciliation-commission>

^{iv} TRC, Executive Summary P.190

^v TRC, Executive Summary P.6