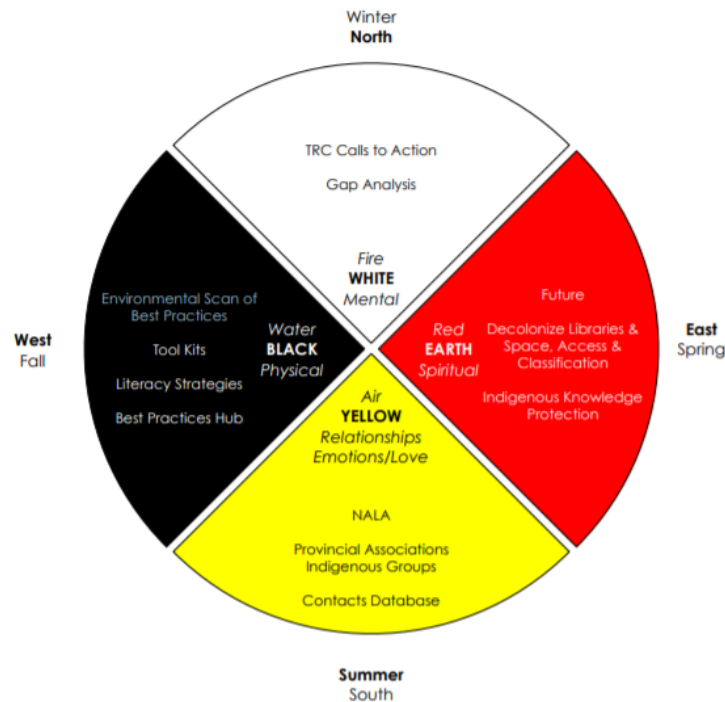


## Honouring UNDRIP and the TRC's Calls to Action: Situating Langara Library (2021-2022)

### Introduction

In 2016, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations - Fédération Canadienne des Associations de Bibliothèques's (CFLA-FCAB) established a Truth and Reconciliation Committee (CFLA-TRC) to promote initiatives in all types of libraries to advance reconciliation by supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. Organized around the medicine wheel model, CFLA-TRC's [2017 Report](#) outlines ten overarching recommendations in four categories:



In the absence of direct TRC Calls to Action for academic libraries, the CFLA-TRC report and recommendations serves as the guiding document for our profession. The summary that follows primarily focuses on the White/Mental quadrant, which “review[s the] [TRC] Calls to Action and identif[ies] those actions which libraries are or should respond to” (p. 18). We extend some of the TRC’s offerings for K-12 education and the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to post-secondary education where fitting.

In November 2019, the provincial government passed legislation to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which the TRC confirms as the framework for reconciliation. Langara Library is committed to upholding the principles outlined by the TRC and UNDRIP. As the CFLA-TRC report states:

Our libraries, archives, and institutions of memory must more fully become cultural centres, representing the Indigenous communities and populations we serve. We must take our direction from the communities and groups we serve in collection development, service delivery, and space design and be culturally aware of the people we serve, and their cultural traditions and languages” (p. 39).

## White – Analysis

TRC Calls to Action (Relevant Areas Highlighted)	Library Activities
<p>10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:</p> <p>i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.</p> <p>ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates.</p> <p>iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.</p>	<p>4. Ensure culturally, and age-appropriate collections are made available;</p> <p>8. Use the principles and approaches of community-led librarianship to ensure that community needs are identified, prioritised and met;</p> <p>9. Provide culturally appropriate/relevant information literacy workshops.</p>
<p>62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:</p> <p>i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.</p>	<p>2. Provide resources which teachers and student teachers can incorporate into Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods.</p>

*Note.* Adapted from "Truth & Reconciliation Report and Recommendations," by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, 2017 (<http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Truth-and-Reconciliation-Committee-Report-and-Recommendations-ISBN1.pdf>). Copyright 2017 by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations.

Langara Library has a robust Indigenous topics collection. The Collections and Media Librarians regularly review the catalogues and websites of academic publishers, university presses, and educational media distributors to identify and procure titles focused on issues specific to the Indigenous peoples of the Lower Mainland, British Columbia, and Canada. Purchase suggestions from faculty and staff also play an important role in selection. The Collections Librarians have focused on building the Library's collection of plays by Indigenous artists for the Studio 58 theatre program and titles focused on decolonizing curriculum.

In 2019, the Library established a satellite Course Reserves collection in the Gathering Space. Upon request, the Library purchases copies of required course textbooks for use in the Gathering Space. These books can also be used for home study with permission from IES staff. The Gathering Space textbook collection emerged in response to feedback from an Indigenous student that they feel

surveilled in the Library. Although this comment saddened library staff who want all members of the Langara community to feel welcome and supported, it is valuable and valid feedback. Langara Library does not have self check-out machines, which means Langara researchers must interact with library staff (who request photo ID or a student number to confirm their identity). The library has security gates to prevent theft and campus security guards conduct regular rounds in the Library's space. This 'policing' adds another layer to Indigenous communities' already complicated relationship with Eurocentric educational institutions, of which libraries are an offshoot.

Langara Library is also home to Open Langara, the College's open education committee and community of practice. Open Education encompasses resources, tools, and practices that are free of legal, financial, and technical barriers and can be fully used, shared and adapted in the digital environment ([SPARC](#)). These values align with Langara's mission to provide accessible, affordable, high-quality education. Langara is currently one of the heaviest adopters of open textbooks among all B.C. post-secondary institutions. According to statistics collected in partnership with BCcampus, open textbooks have saved Langara students over \$2.5 million dollars since 2013. Open Langara will continue to advocate for affordable learning materials on behalf of Langara students.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library offered a 'pop up' event in the Gathering Space once each semester. Timed around term paper season, the Library provided a casual catered lunch and a librarian was available to assist students with research and referencing in a relaxed environment. We look forward to offering this event again when public health recommendations allow.

Langara Library will continue to explore ways to ensure that Indigenous students feel at ease in the library; however, we realize that systemic change is slow. The Library will continue to provide access to course textbooks in the Gathering Space whenever possible to ensure that students do not experience undue financial stress related to their course materials and are able to study where they feel most comfortable.

### 2021-2022 Updates

In 2021-22, the Collections Librarians focused on acquiring more titles by Indigenous LGBTQIA2S+ authors and increasing the number of Indigenous children's books in our collection. As well, the Library continued to add titles on reconciliation, MMIWG, Indigenous art and artists, traditional ways of knowing, memoirs, and graphic novels. The *Indigenous Studies Portal* and the *Bibliography of Indigenous North Americans* are two notable resources the Library added to its collection this past year.

The Library continues to build its media collection with titles relating to Indigenous issues by seeking input from faculty, subject librarians, and proactively considering Indigenous representation (in terms of both content and the creators) when making selections. One recent example is the acquisition of three *REDx Talks* series, which feature Indigenous elders, activists, artists, and speakers talking on a wide variety of topics.

The Library promotes Indigenous collections to its community in various ways. The Library highlighted resources relating to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a window display in the Library entrance and online in the Library's Featured Titles guide for September 2022. Other relevant Featured Titles guides included categories for National Indigenous History

Month (June 2021), Aboriginal Law and Rights (November 2021), and Collective Restoration (April 2022).

TRC Call to Action	Library Activities
<p>69. We call upon Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to:</p> <p>i. Fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Joint-Orontlicher Principles, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools.</p> <p>ii. Ensure that its record holdings related to residential schools are accessible to the public.</p> <p>iii. Commit more resources to its public education materials and programming on residential schools.</p>	<p>1. Support LAC in these initiatives;</p> <p>2. Collections development; continue with programming, displays; links on library websites.</p>

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The Library has developed a suite of online guides to help Langara researchers and instructors identify salient resources on Indigenous topics, including the egregious legacy of [Canada's residential school system](#). Other guides include:

- [Self-Study for Reconciliation](#) (developed in collaboration with Langara's Indigenous Curriculum Consultant)
- [Honouring Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)
- [National Aboriginal Veterans Day Reading List](#)

Prior to the pandemic, library staff organized prominent displays in the L Building foyer to commemorate occasions such as Orange Shirt Day, which honours the victims and survivors of Canada's residential schools and promotes commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation. The Library shifted to [digital displays](#) with the transition to online learning in March 2020.

In June 2020, the Library's social media team organized a Facebook campaign highlighting Indigenous authors for National Aboriginal History Month. The team plans to make this popular campaign an annual event.

## 2021-2022 Updates

The Library continues to mark important dates such as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, National Day of Awareness for MMIWG, and Indigenous History Month on social media, as well as in library displays. We continue to update and promote the aforementioned reading guides.

TRC Call to Action	Library Activities
57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal– Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.	3. Form staff working group to focus on furthering Reconciliation within the Library

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In late 2018, the Library formed an Intercultural Working Group (IWG) open to all library staff who are interested in building intercultural competency and furthering their antiracism education, particularly through a decolonial lens. The group dedicated its first four sessions to working through [Pulling Together: A Guide for Front-Line Staff, Student Services, and Advisors](#), a collaboration between BCcampus and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training with support from a steering committee of Indigenous education leaders, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association, and Métis Nation BC.

IWG members regularly attend professional development sessions that center Indigenization, decolonization, and anti-oppression and report back on take-aways via a Microsoft Teams channel.

## 2021-2022 Updates

The Library’s Intercultural Working Group (IWG) continues to meet on a regular basis. Throughout the year, staff members also attended numerous professional development sessions on reconciliation, Indigenization, and intercultural competency. In particular, several library staff members completed the San’yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Program and the College’s Employee Intercultural Engagement Certificate Program.

In February 2022, the Library hosted Natalie Knight, Langara's Indigenous Strategy Consultant, for an all-staff session on the College's Indigenization Strategy. The session consisted of a review of the strategy and discussions on how the Library can work to Indigenize its spaces, services, and practices. The Library has begun developing a new strategic plan and the College's Indigenization Strategy is a key guiding document for the Library during this process.

## Red - Decolonize

### Access and Classification

Like most academic libraries in North America, Langara Library uses the Library of Congress Classification system to catalogue and classify items in its collection. Our Technical Services Coordinator has initiated an ongoing project to remove outdated and offensive terminology (for example, the subject heading "Indians of North America") from the Library's catalogue records.

The Library has initiated a project to help Langara researchers identify works by Indigenous authors within the Library's collection. Following the model pioneered by UBC's Xwi7xwa Library, Technical Services staff add the subject heading "Indigenous Author" to books in which the author self-identifies as Indigenous. This will help members of the Langara community amplify Indigenous perspectives and expertise in course assignments, research projects, and curricula.

### 2021-2022 Updates

Additional work is being planned to create an automated system to update subject headings as they come into the system. Due to the scope of this project and the sensitivity of the material, the Library expects this project to be complete in 2024.

Library staff and faculty have begun assessing and correcting item classification wherein works by and about Indigenous peoples have often been located with materials in history and ethnographic studies. With the guidance of our Fine Arts / Art History liaison librarian, many titles by and about Indigenous artists have been more properly located with other art books. This ongoing work involves assessing, re-cataloguing, and reprocessing individual titles.

### Outreach and Service

In the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters, Langara Library partnered with IES to offer student book clubs. Langara's Elder in Residence, Nk'xetko, facilitated talking circles for the graphic novels *Sugar Falls* and *Will I See?* to commemorate Orange Shirt Day and the 14<sup>th</sup> annual MMIWG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls) Memorial Walk respectively. Both of these texts are freely available in the Langara Library collection as e-books to ensure that cost and access do not present barriers to participation.

The Library offers a complimentary Community Borrower library card to all students enrolled in the Indigenous Upgrading Program (IUP). These cards allow IUP students to borrow items from Langara Library's print collection. Prior to COVID-19, Langara Library participated in the campus tour for IUP students and hopes to do so again in future.

### 2021-22 Updates

The Library continued to collaborate with IES for a summer student book club, during which the group read *Pemmican Wars*, the first volume in the *A Girl Called Echo* series.

### Looking Forward

The CFLA-TRC encourages libraries to implement a yearly status report to monitor implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action (see Recommendation 3). To date, Langara Library's efforts to Indigenize and decolonize its practices have been largely ad hoc. Moving forward, we would like to be more strategic with these initiatives, identifying priorities in collaboration with our colleagues in IES and sharing our progress with the wider Langara community. Simon Fraser University Library's [Decolonizing the Library Task Group](#) has developed an Action Plan and publishes regular updates on a public-facing website. Langara Library sees value in this model, as it creates accountability and helps ensure meaningful momentum.

### 2021-22 Updates

The Library's new Strategic Plan (2022-2025), still currently in draft form, will have a clear focus on Indigenization of library spaces, services, and practices. A key pillar of the strategic plan is "Championing Indigenization, Diversity, and Inclusion." Aspects of this pillar include:

- seeking funding for an Indigenous Engagement role within the Library
- decolonizing library metadata to continuously improve cultural sensitivity
- facilitating Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) and Indigenization professional development for all Library employees
- partnering with JEDI initiatives across campus
- publishing annual reports on the Library's Indigenization initiatives and efforts to address the TRC calls to action