

BC archives & the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

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Setting the stage: Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

- 2015 - Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report

Call to Action #70:

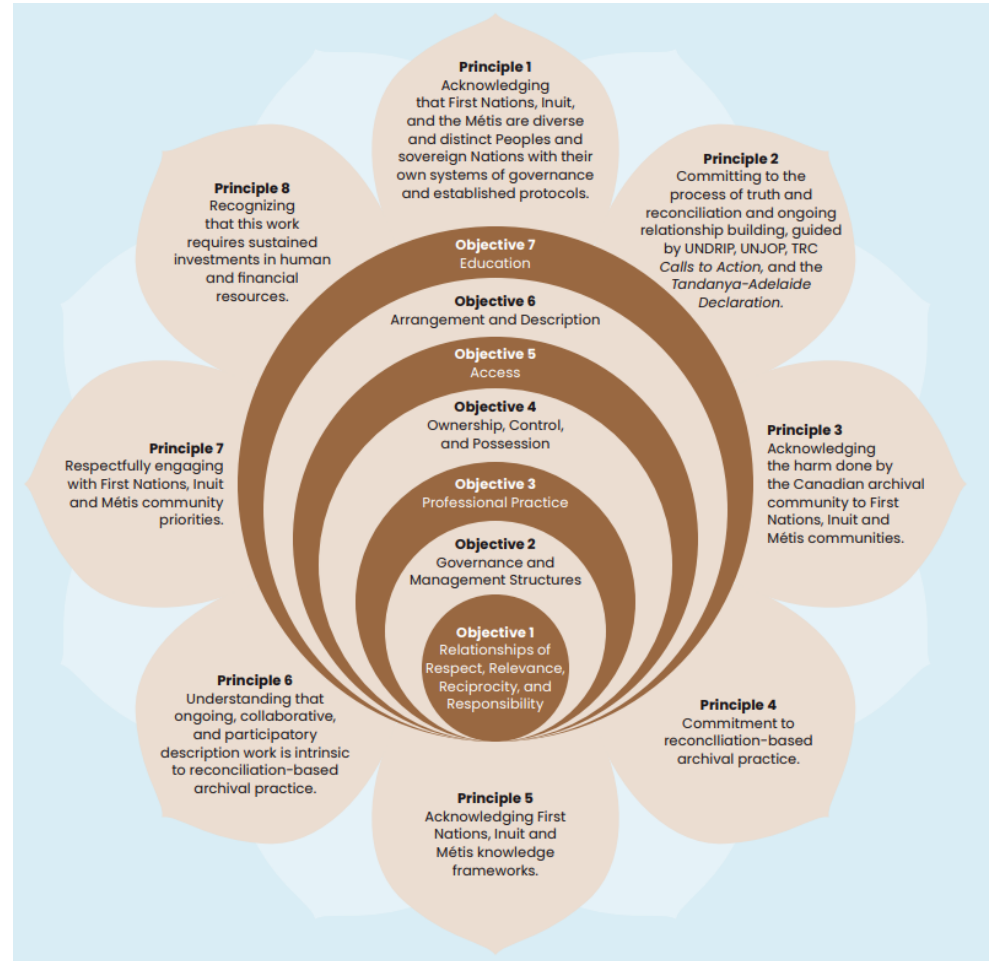
"We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Association of Archivists to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of archival policies and best practices," and produce a report with recommendations as "a reconciliation framework for Canadian Archives."

- Formation of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives (SCAA) and the Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Taskforce (TRC-TF)
 - July 2020 - Taskforce releases draft "A Reconciliation Framework for Canadian Archives"
 - Feb 2022 - Taskforce releases final version of report

https://archives2026.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/reconciliationframeworkreport_en.pdf

Reconciliation Framework at a Glance

Source: Reconciliation Framework: The Response to the Report of the Truth And Reconciliation Commission Taskforce, pg. 17



How and when do we start building a new professional framework?

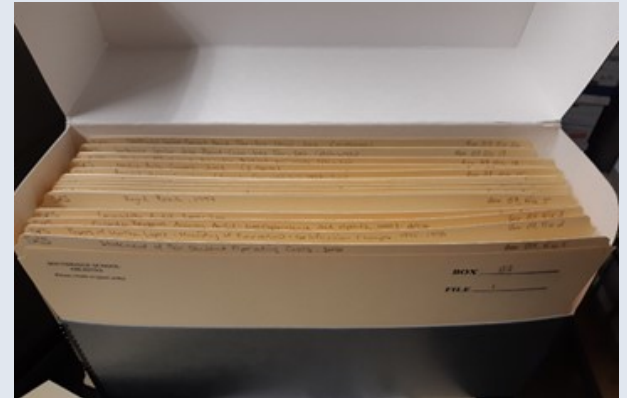
Responding to the Reconciliation Framework by:

- Building equitable relationships with Indigenous communities.
- Respect and reflect Indigenous sovereignty over their information.
- Respond to the needs and priorities of Indigenous communities.
- Make significant changes to archival practice.
- View reconciliation as an ongoing practice.

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Archival organizations are looking inward but feeling overwhelmed:

- What if we have something? What do we do?
- Unsure of cultural protocols.
- Unsure of resources and supports needed to build relationships.
- Sensitivity and deep connections to archival records.



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Building confidence and learning from each other through:

- ✓ Identifying indigenous items/photographs/artifacts in processed and unprocessed holdings.
- ✓ Reaching out to Indigenous communities and starting dialogue.
- ✓ Repatriating items? Or using a MOU to provide a home until records returned to community.
- ✓ Identifying and using Indigenous subject naming protocols and terms when indexing records.
- ✓ Residential school records:
 - BC Archives: Sisters of St. Ann records
 - Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (IRSHDC), UBC



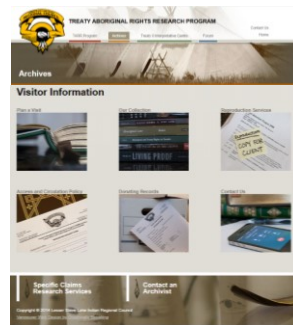
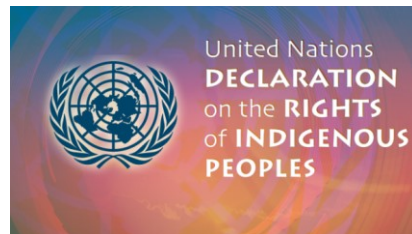
AABC & the TRC Calls to Action

- Awareness and priorities built within AABC Strategic Planning document (2021)
- Indigenous Advocacy Committee
- Anti-Racism Bursary (free distance education course & textbook)
- EAS Advising services (do not need to be a member)
- Archivist's Toolkit – Indigenous Archives & Recordkeeping section
- Roundteas on decolonizing archives, Indigenous researchers using archives
- Upcoming BC Archives Awareness Week (Nov 13-19, 2022) events:
 - *Unarchived* screening & Q&A
 - Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)
 - Indigenous Archives Forum
 - Networking and Updates Roundtea

AABC Workshop: *Archives 101: Archival Practice for Indigenous Organizations*

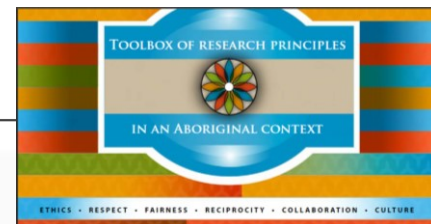


- Workshop first developed in 2018, taught onsite in Indigenous communities throughout the province, including site visits.
- Custom training for Tribal Councils, provincial Archival Associations, University Blue Quills.
- Pre and post-workshop surveys to identify priorities and questions that demonstrate regional needs.
- Workshop content and resources are organic and always evolving.



Indigitization
Tools for Digitizing and Sustaining Indigenous Knowledge

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Thank you

AABC website: aabc.ca