

# Call for Abstracts

**The Social Policy and Advocacy Committee (SPAC) is Hosting a Roundtable Discussion During Conference 2021!**

## **Six Years Implementing Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Social Work Responses**

Since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action on June 2, 2015, criticisms regarding the lack of progress in advancing reconciliation has been growing. Despite the many promises and stated commitments towards reconciliatory efforts, very little concrete action has been made in redressing the harms to Indigenous Peoples resulting from the legacy of residential schools and the ongoing injustices arising from systemic anti-Indigenous oppressions that remain firmly entrenched within societal institutions, policies, processes and systems within Canada.

In a December 2019 status update published by the Yellowhead Institute, it was found that an average of only 2.5 Calls to Action per year are being addressed, with a total of 9 Calls to Action met thus far. While recognizing efforts to address the Calls to Action made by the government, educational institutions, religious organizations and professional associations, the extent of the accomplishments to date remain small and have largely been unsuccessful in bringing about equity and justice for Indigenous people.

A key factor fuelling the lack of demonstrable action and change from reconciliatory efforts, when implemented, is the focus on superficial gestures such as one time actions or statements while ignoring or otherwise failing to right historical wrongs such as the central issue of land dispossession which has been identified by many Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers, scholars as a necessary precursor to addressing the poor economic, educational, health, and social outcomes experienced by many Indigenous people. Moreover, the ongoing resistance of Canadian governments and institutions to authentically, meaningfully, and concretely address the structures, processes and systems that continue to perpetuate harms to Indigenous people is increasingly recognized as a major barrier to both reconciliation and the realisation of Indigenous rights.

In a CBC interview, Jesse Wenté, an Anishinaabe broadcaster and producer, declared reconciliation to be dead and challenged its status as ever being alive due to the deep denial of Canada's history maintained by many, from myth-making and false claims advanced to deny Canada's violent past. Engaging in what Wenté refers to as, "the real work" of reconciliation, now possible following the false reconciliation efforts that were occurring, requires governments,

institutions and all Canadians to acknowledge hard truths about Canada's history of Settler colonialism, the ongoing colonization, and the benefits non-Indigenous Canadians gain from these arrangements.

Many professions, including those in Social Work, have pledged their support to the 94 Calls to Action and their moral responsibility and commitment to take meaningful action to develop more respectful relationships with Indigenous communities. The CASWE issued a "Statement of Complicity", publicly recognizing the role of Social Work education in harming Indigenous people and made a commitment to challenging Canada's colonial actions through improvements in social work education.

The Social Policy and Advocacy Committee (SPAC), is hosting a round able during the CASWE-ACFTS Conference (via Zoom), on June 1-3, 2021 to explore ways in which the TRC Calls to Actions are being recognized and implemented within Social Work education and social policy that create spaces to advance reconciliation work by Social Work educators, researchers and practitioners. We are especially interested in abstracts that focus on policy issues, and responses to the TRC Calls to Action as they relate to Social Work education, practice and research. We welcome abstracts focused on the following questions but welcome abstracts that focus on other areas as well:

- What actions have been taken by schools of Social Work in Canada to respond to the TRC Calls to Action?
- What are concrete examples of TRC responses, such as changes in postsecondary and/or social work program policies? How are current responses to TRC calls to action reflected in teaching practices and curriculums of social work education?
- What are some of the central policy and practice challenges of implementing the TRC Calls to action as they relate to Social Work?
- Which Calls to Action still need a response from Social Work, and how can we best approach them?
- What can we as social workers learn from the last 6 years?

**The deadline to submit abstracts to this TRC Roundtable is: [March 12, 2021](#)**

Submissions must:

- Address the SPAC TRC Roundtable themes
- Include a title and an abstract (250 to 500 words) (references are not required)
- Include the Lead Presenter's full name, title, organization or affiliation, phone number, and email address. (Please be sure to also list the names of each co-presenter.)

**Abstracts must be submitted directly to the Social Policy Advocacy Committee by email.**

Please send your abstracts to SPAC co-chairs:

Anita Vaillancourt [Anita.Vaillancourt@Lakeheadu.ca](mailto:Anita.Vaillancourt@Lakeheadu.ca) and Sasha Kondrashov [okondrashov@tru.ca](mailto:okondrashov@tru.ca)

**Presentation Options:** We will accept abstracts for research presented in any of the following formats:

1. Live Presentation
2. Pre-recorded Presentation

All presentation formats should consist of summaries and highlights of original work, focusing on innovations in theory or practice, research findings or policies. Each presentation will be allocated 15 minutes and will involve a live Q&A session during the conference program.

If there are multiple presenters of a presentation, the Lead Presenter will be responsible for corresponding with the Association regarding their presentation and will communicate any details regarding the presentation to their co-presenters.

### **Abstract Evaluation:**

Abstracts are peer-reviewed by the SPAC reviewers, and assessed based on the following:

- Relevance of topic to the SPAC Roundtable Call for Abstracts
- Clarity of writing
- Clarity of research method(s) and/or conceptual approach
- Clear articulation of a theoretical framework

### **Abstract Status Notification**

Emails regarding the status of submissions will be sent to all Lead Presenters in mid-April 2021.

### **Presenter Requirements**

Persons submitting an abstract agree to do so with the understanding they will abide by the decisions of the 2021 SPAC abstract reviewers. The Lead Presenter is responsible for ensuring all presenters are in compliance with this agreement.

All presenters must be members in good standing of CASWE-ACFTS for the 2021/22 membership year. In addition to being a CASWE-ACFTS member in good standing, all accepted presenters must register for 1) the CASWE-ACFTS Conference and 2) the 2021 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Failure to comply with the membership and registration requirements by April 30, 2021, may result in the presenter being removed from the Conference program.