



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

JULIE DZEROWICZ

Member of Parliament
Davenport

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CALLS TO ACTION UPDATE

SUMMER 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Davenport friends and neighbours: amis et voisins de Davenport:

Reconciliation and a genuine nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada are important to Davenport residents. Since first elected in late 2015, our federal Liberal government has allocated a historic amount of funding of over \$45 billion to take action and make real progress in creating equity for Indigenous peoples across Canada, and in building the capacity that will allow for reconciliation and a new nation-to-nation relationship. While I am proud of our progress to-date, I know we have so much more to do to correct the centuries of harm to Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

This update serves to highlight **some** of the progress we have made, in key areas such as child welfare, health, education, and water advisories. There is also information on our progress in implementing the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action**. Our federal government is working as fast as possible to implement the recommendations with **80% of the Calls to Action under federal, or shared, responsibility are either complete, or well underway**. A complete status report on the TRC can be found at bit.ly/Davenport-TRC, and CBC's website "Beyond 94".

I am particularly proud that we have passed the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** which will ensure Canadians laws are consistent with the aims of UNDRIP; the \$2 billion in funding we have allocated to implement the recommendations of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls and the designation of September 30 as the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.

The events of this summer have prompted Canadians and Davenport residents, including me, to reflect on the very dark part of Canada's history—the legacy of residential schools which continues today to have repercussions and reignite past traumas. The federal government is committed to fully funding the search for the missing across Canada, to identify them, and to properly bury and honour them. This will be a painful process for all Canadians, but as we acknowledge the truth of Canada's past, and as we mourn, we can also chart a path towards reconciliation and a more equitable relationship.

A complete summary of our federal government's progress on the discoveries at residential schools, and our work in key areas of reconciliation can be found in this document on my website: bit.ly/DavenportReconciliationUpdate

Finally, I want to congratulate **Mary Simon, Canada's first Indigenous Governor General**. Her appointment – a historic milestone for Canada – was announced on July 6. Ms. Simon is an accomplished diplomat and a champion of Inuit rights and culture, and those of all Indigenous peoples.

As always, it is an honour and privilege to serve you Davenport.

Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament, Davenport

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Calls to Action Completed in 2021

- ✓ Call to Action 15—Appoint Aboriginal Languages Commissioner
- ✓ Call to Action 41—Launch of the National Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (National Action Plan announced on June 3, 2021)
- ✓ Call to Action 43—Adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- ✓ Call to Action 80—Establish a National Day for Truth & Reconciliation on September 30
- ✓ Call to Action 94—Replace the Oath of Citizenship

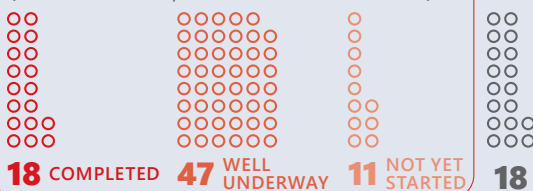


With Eva Clayton, President of the Nisga'a Nation

Since first elected in 2015, our federal Liberal government has committed to implementing all 94 TRC Calls to Action. Here is the progress we have made to date:

FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY

(SOLE OR SHARED, 76 OF 94 CALLS TO ACTION)



OUTSIDE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY

(CIVIL SOCIETY, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, AND CORPORATIONS)

Child Welfare (Progress on Calls to Action 1-5)

Our federal Liberal government is determined to ensure that Indigenous communities are in charge of their own child and family services, so that they can provide children with the services they need in a culturally consistent way. To help reduce the number of Indigenous children in care, and to affirm Indigenous communities' rights to run their own child welfare services, our government co-developed and passed the landmark law, An **Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families**, in 2019.

On July 6, Prime Minister Trudeau and Chief Cadmus Delorme announced that **Canada has signed the first agreement under the Act with Cowessess First Nation**, returning responsibility for child welfare services to the community.

17 other Coordination Agreement discussions are underway with Indigenous communities. In November 2020, our government announced over \$500M to advance engagement with these discussions, building on the \$3 billion we have already invested to improve child and family services.



CALL TO ACTION 4 — COMPLETE
Enact Indigenous child welfare legislation

Health (Progress on Calls to Action 18-24)

Of the more than \$45 billion invested in Indigenous priorities since 2016, a significant amount has gone to closing the gap in health care services for Indigenous communities. This includes support for mental health, capacity building for Indigenous communities to address the health inequalities resulting from the intergenerational impacts of colonization, and a renewed approach to **Jordan's principle**: that Indigenous children must get the services they need, when they need them.

The latest investment, in Budget 2021, is \$126.7M over the next three years. On June 29, Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services, and Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, announced how this will be spent to support efforts to address racism in Canada's health systems. It will help ensure Canada aligns with **Joyce's principle** (named for Joyce Echquan) and recognize that Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Our government also announced that we will co-develop distinctions-based **health legislation**, which will be informed by the spirit and elements of Joyce's principle.

Water Advisories

The top issue Davenport residents ask me is why we have not done more to eliminate long-term drinking water advisories in First Nations. Here is my response: When the federal Liberal government entered office in late 2015, there were 105 long-term drinking water advisories. We immediately set to work ending them and more have since been added. **We have lifted 108 long-term drinking water advisories**, and 51 long-term advisories remain in 32 communities. **Each and every single remaining one has an action plan, a project team and the funding allocation, dedicated to lifting it.**

You can find regular updates on this issue at the webpage "Ending long-term drinking water advisories" (sac-isc.gc.ca).

Below is an image that outlines our progress and our current situation:

Education (Progress on Calls to Action 6-12)

When our federal government first took office in 2015, we were determined to eliminate the gap in education funding between Indigenous children and all other children in Canada. Since 2016, our government has made a series of substantial investments in Indigenous education, and we have made enormous progress.

We are working together with First Nations to co-develop a new policy transforming the Government of Canada's support for First Nations elementary and secondary education, we are working to co-develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs, we are providing funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education, and making progress on other priorities for education.



CALL TO ACTION 8 — COMPLETE
Eliminate discrepancy in federal funding for on reserve vs. off-reserve education

