

Reconciliation in Saskatchewan:

Building Shared Measurement for Reconciliation in Saskatchewan



Background: Reconciliation Saskatchewan:

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) is working to create a provincial movement for reconciliation. The OTC uses its stature as a neutral provincial facilitator to encourage honest conversations about the nature of successful reconciliation and Treaty implementation – both within the public at large, and by bringing together influential leaders from all walks of life. We hope to inspire action and innovation by finding, showcasing and learning from the many examples of reconciliation underway in Saskatchewan, by seeking and supporting “champions” for reconciliation and the Treaty Relationship, and by connecting these champions and initiatives.

The strategy for Reconciliation Saskatchewan is threefold:

Public Engagement

- using the OTC’s website, newsletter, social media platforms, and Speakers Bureau to promote dialogue, educate, tell stories of success, and inspire action. (<http://www.otc.ca/>)

Creating consensus and mobilization around a common vision for reconciliation and the Treaty Relationship

- to initiate reflection and discussion, to ask Saskatchewan citizens to dream of a better future, and to bring all Treaty Peoples together around a common vision for the future. If we can all agree on the society we want to build, each of us can contribute in our own ways to making that dream a reality.

Creating Coalitions of Champions for Reconciliation

- to bring together diverse leaders to build trust, relationships and mutual learning – in the spirit of Treaty. We hope to facilitate a sense of “we” and to harness the energy, influence, and perspectives of these leaders to identify common objectives and make positive change. There are currently three Reconciliation Saskatchewan groups: Saskatoon, Regina and Lloydminster/Onion Lake Cree Nation. Numerous other communities have expressed desire to begin similar work.

Reconciliation Saskatoon has been meeting monthly since March 2016 and has grown from seven initial partners to roughly 58 organizations participating in the circle. The group has collectively organised Rock Your Roots Walks for Reconciliation in 2016 and 2017, attracting roughly 3000 and 4000 people respectively. Most importantly, the diverse group of partners has developed relationships and trust. A number of other initiatives have resulted from these relationships, such as the Saskatoon Public Library’s Read for Reconciliation campaign, and its consultation with Elders in naming the Round Prairie and Freda Ahenakew Branch libraries. Reconciliation Regina and Reconciliation Lloydminster/Onion Lake Cree Nation have also been meeting for six and ten months respectively, with both groups agreeing on principles and objectives for working together. Our next big project has a working title of “take the pledge” and will encourage Canadians to commit to a personal journey of reconciliation while providing resources and encouragement to help them on their way.

Find additional information about reconciliation in Canada:

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission: <http://www.trc.ca>
- UNDRIP: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf
- First Nations Saskatchewan Map <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100020616/1100100020653>
- Metis Nation Saskatchewan: <http://metisnationsk.com/>
- SK Provincial government treaty land and entitlements: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/treaty-land-and-entitlements>

Building on Success – Next Steps: Shared Measurement

Reconciliation Saskatchewan has been using the model of Collective Impact to guide its work. There are five crucial elements to the Collective Impact model:

- **Common Agenda:** coming together to collectively define the problem and create a shared vision
- **Shared Measurement:** agreeing to track progress in the same way, which allows for continuous improvement and mutual understanding
- **Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** coordinating collective efforts to maximize the end result
- **Continuous Communication:** building trust and relationships among all participants
- **Backbone support:** having a team dedicated to orchestrating the work of the group

While we feel that Reconciliation Saskatchewan has made significant progress in these five areas, the cornerstone of Shared Measurement is one that needs further development. Getting agreement about how to measure the progress of reconciliation is a significant undertaking. Building shared measurement capacity, provides opportunity to collect and analyse data, and collectively learn about and communicate what is working to move us closer to our shared vision of reconciliation in Saskatchewan.

Reconciliation Saskatoon has established a “SenseMaking” sub-committee to discuss evaluation processes and learning (includes members from Saskatoon Health Region, U of S, Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership, United Church of Canada, Saskatoon Tribal Council). The OTC has also partnered with the U of S Department of Psychology to have a master’s student in Applied Social Psychology intern during the summer and fall semester of 2017, to provide the OTC with additional capacity on these questions. The OTC has also identified partnership opportunities with the U of S Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL), and has been a member of the Saskatoon Community Foundation Vital Signs report advisory committee, which compiles data on a variety of indicators of community health.

Common Agenda: A Shared Vision for Reconciliation Saskatchewan

The OTC and its partners asked roughly 380 Saskatchewan leaders from over 70 organizations in five communities to imagine what successful reconciliation looks like in 25 years. We pulled the themes we heard together and in 2016 created a draft vision of a reconciled Saskatchewan:

Reconciliation in Saskatchewan is each citizen of the province taking personal responsibility to do what they can to create an interdependent and fair society where:

- Indigenous cultures, languages, ways of knowing and governance structures are strong and sovereign, while also included in and contributing to the overall fabric of Saskatchewan life;
- We share a common understanding of Saskatchewan’s history, and our personal place within it;
- Justice for past wrongs has been achieved, and families and communities are strong and healing;
- Safe spaces exist and skills are developed for mutual learning, communication across cultures, trust building, partnerships, and shared social experiences;
- We all enjoy a high quality of life, and full participation in the economy;
- Governance at all levels, including institutions of education, health, justice, economy and social services, represent and benefit from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership, values, history and ways of knowing.

The feedback received on the Reconciliation Vision suggests further work to validate and elaborate language on the Vision, and through that discussion, extract a group of indicators to be collectively used for measuring progress

against that vision. This process will also serve to build provincial ownership of the vision and shared measurement process among the Saskatoon, Regina, and Lloydminster groups of champions, and to reengage the many champions that were involved in the original vision process, but whom have not been greatly involved since.

Workshop Case Study Purpose:

Capitalizing on the wealth of expertise at this workshop on Evaluating Community Impact and participants' exposure to the tools throughout this workshop, the SenseMakers committee of Reconciliation Saskatoon would like to pose 4 questions as an opportunity to provide insights to our team and to create a shared conversation about a real-world implementation of the information learned throughout the ECI workshop.

Theory of Change:

Developing relationships and a collective sense of “we” within the public, and with key individual champions, will result in a better future for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.

By providing influential individuals with a safe space for dialogue, we can start to build the relationships crucial for reconciliation, while identifying which roadblocks are legal, political, attitudinal or bureaucratic, and which policy options are politically, economically and socially feasible.

Question 1:

Help Reconciliation Saskatchewan develop a visual representation for the above theory of change.

Question 2:

What do you think are the barriers and limitations to using a collective impact framework to achieve the Reconciliation Saskatchewan theory of change?

- What tools would you use to evaluate the theory of change and why?
- What tools and/or best practices would you use to evaluate specific events or individual aspects of the Reconciliation Saskatoon work (i.e. the Rock Your Roots Walk)

Question 3:

Moving forward, what advice would you provide to Reconciliation Saskatchewan about building evaluation into their practice?

Question 4:

Discuss as a group one of the five pillars of reconciliation put forward by Hamber and Kelly (<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/dd/papers/dd04recondef.pdf>).

How would you evaluate progress toward:

- Developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past
- Building positive relationships
- Significant cultural and attitudinal change
- Substantial social, economic and political change

Reflect on the intersection between expectations of traditional evaluation frameworks and Indigenous ways of knowing. Do you feel there are ways to decolonize traditional evaluation frameworks? Do you have any experiences or ideas about including indigenous knowledge?

Other advice or comments:

- As you work through the questions – please keep notes of advice or comments