

# LEARNING COMMUNITY ON RECONCILIATION

As we know, there is a growing call for reconciliation in this country and an urgent need to act now to ensure that young people who are First Nations, Inuit and Métis know that they are loved and that they belong, and are provided with an equal opportunity to thrive.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) offer a roadmap for change, one that needs to be rigorously explored and implemented within organizations that serve vulnerable children, youth, and families.

CWLC has heard from many of our members and we understand that you are eager to do more, yet are also struggling to know where and how to meaningfully dig in. In response to this need, CWLC is creating a community of learning for sector leaders to help them move forward in their reconciliation journey and to provide a platform for transformational systems-level change.

## **A Learning Community on Reconciliation**

Under the guidance of CWLC's Indigenous Child and Family Committee, we are offering capacity-building supports and learning opportunities to two (2) cohorts of 15-20 organizations that seek to:

**Strengthen** their ability to work creatively, respectfully, and collaboratively with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples;

**Reflect** on their practice, learn from peers and experts, and prototype and evaluate reconciliation activities;

**Operationalize** the TRC's Calls to Action and UNDRIP in their organization.

The learning community will begin with two (2) inaugural two-day events at the Impact Hub Ottawa in October of this year. Here, we will shine a spotlight on areas of collective struggle and provide space for participants to begin to map out solutions and action plans alongside their peers, under the guidance of Indigenous elders and leaders.

Our October convenings will be followed by a series of three (3) quarterly online working group meetings and events (one series per cohort), where participants will be both challenged and supported in pulling through, testing and evaluating their organization's reconciliation activities.

Funding permitting, it is CWLC's intent to replicate the above experience over a 3-year period. With generous support from the Muttart Foundation, supplemented by participant registration fees (as further outlined below), we are ready to launch year 1 of our effort.

### **Express Your Interest in Joining this Learning Community**

CWLC is seeking Expressions of Interest from mainstream youth organizations, child welfare agencies, family-serving organizations, and those providing housing, mental health, therapeutic, and justice programs to young people across Canada.

In expressing interest, organizations are asked to:

1. Delegate a leader from their organization to participate in the learning community, along with a second individual who will help to implement on related action plans – this person may be internal or external to the organization;
2. Pay a registration fee, allowing two people to participate in a face-to-face convening and three (3) online working group meetings: (\$750 for CWLC members; \$1,000 for non-members)
3. Travel to Ottawa in October 2019 to take part in a two-day convening on October 21st and 22nd or October 24th and 25th. Note that this second convening will take place only if there is appropriate demand. Here, we ask that participants cover their travel expenses to and from Ottawa, including hotel and airfare, if needed. CWLC will provide meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) throughout the course of the event.

## **Our Commitment to You**

CWLC is committed to providing you with a supportive space – one that is led and guided by Indigenous elders and leaders – from which to continually learn, test, share and grow in your reconciliation journey. We are in this together!

## **Will You Imagine the Change and be a Change-maker with us?**

If you are ready to join this effort to ensure that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families live in dignity and respect, please respond to this questionnaire (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R6XN65R>) at your earliest convenience. We will accept Expressions of Interest on a first come, first serve basis until all available spaces are filled.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this effort directly with me, do not hesitate to reach out. We are excited to work with you in the months ahead!

Sincerely,

Rachel  
Executive Director  
Child Welfare League of Canada