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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**Special Chiefs Assembly  
December 7, 8, 9, 2021, Ottawa (Ontario)**

**Resolution no. 33/2021**

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**TITLE:** Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's  
Calls to Action #81 and #82

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**SUBJECT:** Culture, Indian Residential School System

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**MOVED BY:** Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak, Cree Nation, MB

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Harvey McLeod, Upper Nicola Band, BC

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**DECISION** Carried; 1 objection; 1 abstention

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### WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
  - ii. Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
- B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action state:
- i. #81: We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools National Monument in the city of Ottawa to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.
  - ii. #82: We call upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.
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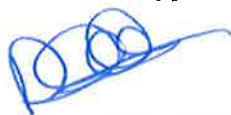
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- C. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 01/2015, *Support for the Full Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action*, mandates the AFN to call upon the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to take immediate steps to fully implement all Calls to Action.
- D. AFN Resolution 112/2019, *Urgent Action by Heritage Canada to Implement TRC Call to Action # 81*, directed the AFN to urge the federal government to allocate all necessary resources towards the implementation of Call to Action #81, that is for the installation of a world class, highly prominent Residential Schools National Monument to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.
- E. Six years after the publication of the Final Report of the TRC, Calls to Action #81 and #82 have not been implemented in a meaningful way.
- F. There are about twenty statues on the Parliament grounds but none recognizing the First Peoples of Canada.
- G. With the coming of the European traders, missionaries, settlers and the creation of Canada, Indigenous Peoples across Canada have endured racism and oppressive colonial attitudes that resulted in negative dealings and grievances with all layers of society
- H. A June 2019 poll conducted by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, the AFN, and Abacus Data shows that the majority of Canadians believe governments are not doing enough to teach students about the legacy of the Indian Residential School System.
- I. The Joinet-Orentlicher Principles, adopted by the United Nations, have established that states have a responsibility and obligation to take measures to ensure that collective violence against a targeted group of people does not reoccur. In addition to providing compensation, making apologies, and undertaking educational reform, states also have a duty "to remember." Under Principle 2:
  - i. A people's knowledge of the history of its oppression is part of its heritage and, as such, must be preserved by appropriate measures in fulfillment of the State's duty to remember... On a collective basis, symbolic measures intended to provide moral reparation, such as formal public recognition by the State of its responsibility, or official declarations aimed at restoring victims' dignity, commemorative ceremonies, naming of public thoroughfares or the erection of monuments, help to discharge the duty of remembrance.
- J. A Residential Schools National Monument on Parliament Hill in Ottawa would recognize and honour the First Peoples of Canada (First Nations, Inuit and Métis). The monument would be dedicated to the memory of

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Indigenous Peoples across Canada who endured and suffered unnecessary hardships and racism in Canada's 150-year old history and would fulfill TRC Call to Action #81.

- K. This Monument would honour Survivors and the children who were lost to their families and communities and would be a place where all visitors could remember, pray, reflect, shed tears, and begin forgiving, healing, and hoping for our future.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:**

1. Reaffirm Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 112/2019, *Urgent Action by Heritage Canada to Implement TRC Call to Action #81*, by supporting a project to create a Residential Schools National Monument to honour Residential School Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.
2. Direct the AFN to support First Nations work with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Native Women's Association of Canada on the development and design of the Residential Schools National Monument.
3. Direct the AFN to call on the federal, provincial and territorial governments to work with First Nations on fulfilling Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action #81 and #82 to install Residential School Monuments in each capital city across the country.
4. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to urge federal, provincial and territorial governments to secure funding for First Nations to participate in the development of these monuments.

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