

CARRIERS OF HOPE

YOUTH CALLS TO ACTION

Youth Leaders in First Nations Education Policy







Youth Leaders in First Nations Education Policy

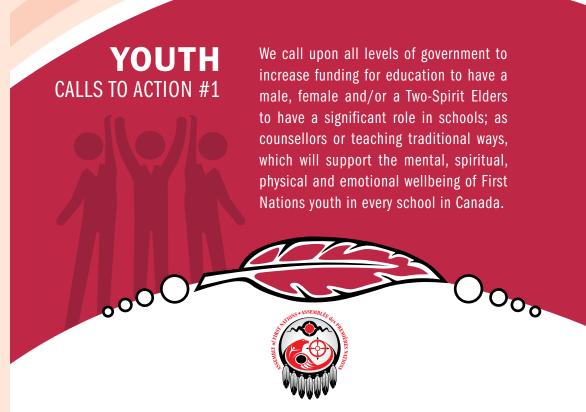
The Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope Youth Policy Forum on First Nations Education brought together 36 First Nations youth from nations across Canada between the ages of 13 and 18 to discuss their first-hand experiences and challenges in education. These young leaders developed five Calls to Action and a How- to-Guide aimed at driving change to support First Nations student success.

The objectives of this How-to-Guide are to:

- honour and promote the contributions and advocacy of First Nations youth;
- · amplify youth priorities for improving First Nations education; and
- call upon both First Nation and non-First Nation students, teachers, schools, and leadership, to take prompt action in their community to advance each Call to Action.

The voices that informed this How-to-Guide are reflective of First Nations from each region across Canada. They encompass and represent diverse gender/sex identities, ages, and rural and urban experiences.

RAISED VOICES:



























Become student liaisons in schools to support Elders.



Advocate for the inclusion of First Nations Elders in their classrooms through campaign letters, videos, petitions and/ or presentations.



CALLS TO ACTION #1







Advocate to have a cultural space within schools to accommodate Elders.



Encourage the use of First Nations languages and cultures in classrooms.

The Carriers of Hope call upon Students to:





Help perform cultural protocols when having Elders in classrooms, Ask an Elder how you can help.



Create relationships with local First Nations Elders by visiting cultural and community spaces.



call upon Teachers to:



Broaden the parameters of course assignments to include students who may wish to involve Elders' knowledge in their coursework.



Respect and honour First Nations Elders' role in students' everyday lives.



For more information go to: **[f] [v]**









Research tokenism and avoid singling out First Nations students in the classroom.



Use textbooks that are written by First Nations Elders and authors on First Nations topics and subjects.



Research and become aware of protocols regarding Elders (i.e. providing tobacco, transportation, honoraria sharing methods etc.)



For more information go to: **F**

Recognise First Nations Elders as knowledge keepers and allow their teachings and stories to be cited in assignments.





Practice self-care when engaging in difficult topics.

























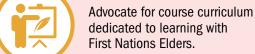


Create a space for a male, female and/or Two-Spirit Flders to be counsellors and teachers for First Nations students.



Schools should complete the costing for these positions.







The Carriers of Hope call upon Leaders to:





The Carriers of Hope call upon Schools to:

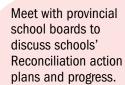




Pay for tobacco, transportation, and honorarium for Elders when brought into schools.



Invite Elders to school events and assemblies.





Advocate for permanent First Nations Elder designated seats on school boards and school board associations.























Promote the inclusion of extracurricular cultural activities including beadwork classes. and powwow Zumba.



Advocate for increased investments to support Elders' presence and an Elders' space in schools.





Invite a male, female and/or Two-Spirit Elder to sit on the school council.



RAISED VOICES:

CARRIERS OF HOPE

YOUTH CALLS TO ACTION #2

000

Nations and the Government of Canada. This commitment on the land keeps our traditions alive while connecting us to ourselves, families, nations and ancestors. However, we call for the expansion of this current funding to all First reserve. This becomes another resource to support their wellbeing and success.

















Go to nearby rivers or ponds in your neighbourhood and notice the colours, shapes and smells around you. Take photos or write your observations down in a journal.

Take a social media break and go on a walk.



Present field trip ideas to teachers that involve land-based learning.



For more information go to:











Look into the history

of your neighbour-

hood, town or city. Locate statues.

parks, street names

or school names and

research who or what

they are named after

and why.

Follow influencers on social media that speak about traditional teachings and land-based knowledge.



The Carriers of Hope call upon Students to:



Explore projects or research topics related to land-based learning (i.e. natural science through observation methods).





Research First Nations history, territory or Treaty they live and learn on. (Ex: Native- land.com).





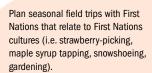
The Carriers of Hope call upon Teachers to:



Explore opportunities to learn First Nations languages, histories, and cultures.



Incorporate land-based learning options into lesson plans.





Consult knowledge keepers, language and culture teachers to support these lessons.









opportunities that promote being on the land.



Learn about First Nations traditional activities and accommodate students who may need to miss class.











The Carriers of Hope call upon Schools to:



Provide cultural sensitivity/awareness training to teachers.



Hire Elders/Knowledge keepers to teach once a week outside through land-based teaching.

Encourage an annual, school-wide land-based treasure hunt that requires teachers and students to engage with their surroundings and history of the neighbourhood.



Encourage teachers to include course content that focuses on First Nations cultures and land-based learning.



For more information









or group workshops inviting First Nations experts to talk about the importance of land-based knowledge and how it can be incorporated into curricula.



Create a school garden - either indoors or outdoors and encourage all teachers and students to take care of it. This will teach students about responsibility, teamwork, and immerse them in the concepts of land-based knowledge and sustainable communities.















The Carriers of Hope call upon Leaders to:





Support research on the outcomes of land/ cultural-based learning.

Be more involved in the schools and participate in on-the-land learning exercises with students.







Lobby provincial/ territorial ministries of Education to increase funding for land/ culture-based programs.



For more information go to:









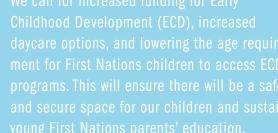
control of First Nations

education.

RAISED VOICES:

CARRIERS OF HOPE

YOUTH CALLS TO ACTION #3

































Assist fellow classmates by creating a network of support for a student parent.

The Carriers of Hope call upon Students to:





Engage in peer tutoring or mentorship.



Offer to take notes for absent students.

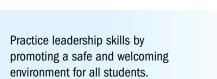
For more information go to: 🛐 💟 🖸

















Take Indigenous cultural competency training.



The Carriers of Hope call upon Teachers to:



Ensure students are taught healthy and culturally relevant sexual education and healthy relationship education.



Post course content online for students that may need to miss class.

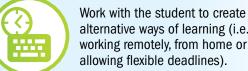


For more information go to: [f] 💟 🔯









Accommodate young

family obligations

























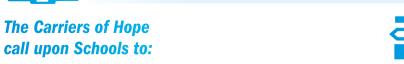
Consider options to combine daycare and class spaces.



Hire Elders to help in daycare programs.



and reliable daycare available for student





Ensure there is a safe parents.



Offer baby-sitting, parenting, CPR and First Aid courses.



Encourage partnerships with health professionals to provide support and resources to student parents.



For more information go to: 🛐 💟 🖸











Ensure communities provide culturally relevant parenting training and supports.



Advocate for subsidized daycare options.







Advocate for increased investments in Aboriginal Head Start programs.



Enforce a school board-wide policy to ensure equality to student parents (no discrimination policy).











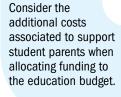
Provide baby items, supplies and resources at schools.



Ensure there is a secure and private room available to deal with breastfeeding needs.



Ensure that all parents are accommodated if they need to miss courses or assignments.





Ensure housing is available for young parents and young families.



RAISED VOICES:

CARRIERS OF HOPE



We call for equitably funded Kindergarten to grade 12 schools with a sufficient amount of resources, supports, and culturally aware faculty

















Create a student committee made up of First Nations and allies to advocate for cultural awareness in the school.



Advocate for First Nations leadership groups in schools.

The Carriers of Hope call upon Students to:







Suggest community members to invite to schools who can provide workshops, trainings, or events.

Have a conversation with your guidance counsellor on additional resources or support available.



Speak up when teachers are not respecting First Nations culture.

For more information go to: **[f] [v]**









Create a newsletter to include a section highlighting First Nations initiatives, programs and events.













CALLS TO ACTION #4













Accept alternative forms of work in lessons (i.e. storytelling, dance, reports from First Nations youth gatherings or personal experiences).



Encourage regalia, or other cultural items to be brought in for awareness teaching.



The Carriers of Hope

call upon Schools to:



Acknowledge the traditional territory during morning announcements.



Have cultural rooms, spaces and items available for students.



The Carriers of Hope



Bring an Elder in

to smudge the classrooms when needed.







Include curriculum mandated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action. Subject areas may include Treaty Education, Residential Schools and First Nations historical and contemporary contributions to Canada.



For more information go to: 🛐 💟 🖸







Fund First Nations motivational speakers to come into schools to speak to the students.



Insist guidance counsellors have an additional duty to report and record complaints about teachers/staff regarding cultural

ignorance.



(i.e. notifying your local fire department on protocols and procedures).

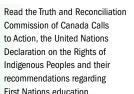


Encourage your cafeteria to include traditional First Nation recipes: First Nations Elders or community members could be invited in.













promote First Nations

initiatives, programs

and events.

Ban inappropriate or racist symbols, imagery, mascots costumes and behaviours in schools.



Bring awareness to existing First Nations initiatives and social media campaigns (i.e. Have a Heart Day, Orange Shirt Day).

For more information go to: **F**



Offer First Nation languages courses

taught by First Nation teachers.



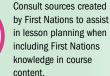






























Advocate for mandatory courses and additional qualifications that provide cultural competency training for teachers. These courses could prepare teachers to ensure the inclusion of First Nations perspectives and cultures in course curriculum.

The Carriers of Hope call upon Leaders to:



Advocate for increased funding for First Nations extracurricular activities at school.



Advocate for increased funding for professional development of teachers regarding cultural training.



For more information go to: 🛐 💟 🖸









Advocate for increased mandatory training on indigenous history for all Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial/Territorial Parliament, Senators and Bureaucrats.



RAISED VOICES:

CARRIERS OF HOPE

YOUTH CALLS TO ACTION #5

We call on the Assembly of First Nations, Federal Government, and national organizations to encourage the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to influence and advocate for the inclusion of our shared history and First Nations

knowledge into curricula.









The Carriers of Hope call upon Students to:



Write to Members of Provincial Parliament supporting increased representation of First Nations knowledge into curricula.







雪



Advocate for and be allies

Advocate for the

inclusion of the First

Nations flag of that

territory on school

property.

to First Nation students

and their wellbeing.









The Carriers of Hope call upon Teachers to:



Include books written by First Nations authors in course reading materials.



Research existing guides and best practices for teaching First Nations cultures and histories in the classroom.



Seek out First Nations content experts to invite to speak to the class. Consult with a First Nations education organization in your area for support.





Include First Nations history and knowledge in curricula throughout the entire year.



雪

Utilize the Assembly of First Nations It's Our Time Toolkit as a teaching resource. Visit https:// education.afn.ca/

afntoolkit for more

information.

For more information go to:















spread awareness and advocate for the importance of including First Nations knowledge in schools.

Utilize your social

media platforms to



Write to the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) by sharing concerns, questions and suggestion for the inclusion of First Nations knowledge into school curricula.







For more













The Carriers of Schools to:



Encourage teachers to include First Nations histories and knowledge in the classroom to support students feeling welcomed in their school environments.





Have blanket

school year.

exercises at the

beginning of the

Actively acknowledge

the territory they are

on by raising the First

Nations flag.









CALLS TO ACTION #5

The Carriers of

Hope call upon

Leaders to:











Hope call upon





Budget for teacher training to ensure that courses on First Nations content will be taught appropriately.



Hold school-wide activities to support Indigenous Education Days of Significance. For example: Orange Shirt Day, Treaty Day, National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day.





Invite the Provincial Minister of Education to schools so they can listen to First Nations students' questions, concerns, and suggestions.











Advocate for increased mandatory subject matter regarding First Nations shared histories and knowledge in curricula.



Advocate for investments in the development of a living First Nations curriculum developed by First Nations for First Nations.



Acknowledge First Nations education as an Inherent and Treaty Right.





Implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action into syllabi.





Learn about and include land acknowledgements in their opening remarks.











RAISED VOICES:

CARRIERS OF HOPE

