

RAIC Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Task Force

Background

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established by the Government of Canada. Its work between 2007 and 2015 resulted in a final report released in 2015 with 94 “calls to action” -- urging all levels of government — federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous — to work together to change policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation.

In review of the RAIC historical record between 2007-2020 no formal actions or statements were made by the organization with respect to the TRC. In consultation with Patrick Stewart, chair of the RAIC Indigenous Task Force (ITF), the Vice President of Corporate Affairs developed a proposal for the RAIC board to review the report published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission¹. Specifically, to review the recommendations contained within TRC report with the intent of determining how the RAIC and its members can help to facilitate the intent of the recommendations.

At the February 2020 RAIC Board Meeting, it was decided to convene a RAIC TRC Task Force to provide this leadership and a motion to strike a TRC Task Force was approved unanimously on February 21, 2020.

RAIC Commitment

The RAIC will build relationships with Indigenous Peoples based on a recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

Vision

Working together and co-constructing to make the vision of reconciliation a reality.

Goal

Social justice for Indigenous Peoples.

Objectives

Engagement of Indigenous stakeholders for sustainable action
Access to truth about colonization
Transformation of RAIC to a culturally safe organization

Mandate

To facilitate sustainable actions that will foster reconciliation within the profession.

¹ http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Task Force Activities

The Task Force is asked to review the TRC report and identify which of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action relate to the RAIC's vision² and mission³.

In addition to identifying which of the 94 Calls to Action relate to the RAIC, the TRC Task Force could identify and recommend concrete actions for the RAIC to implement over a three to five-year horizon. Some examples of recommendations (including but not limited to):

- Literature reviews on best practices in reconciliation and decolonization practices;
- Provide access to truth about colonization (e.g. webinars, education, written);
- Build knowledge for architects to practice with cultural safety and humility;
- Recruitment and retention of Indigenous architects;
- Mentoring program;
- Sponsor KAIROS Blanket Exercise as workshop for delegates at Conference⁴;
- Ensure inclusion and participation of elders and Indigenous knowledge keepers and a respect for the perspective and education at events;
- Publish a position statement.

The outcome would be reported to the board of directors in Spring/Summer 2021.

Membership

The TRC Task Force is a made up of a mix of board directors, RAIC staff, ITF representatives, guests and allies.

Chair/Co-chair:	TBD
RAIC Board Representatives:	Dale Taylor & Sean Ruthen
RAIC Staff-	Giovanna Boniface (VP Corporate Affairs)
RAIC Secretariat-	Kristen Gagnon (Manager, Advocacy and Engagement)
Invited Guests and Allies:	TBD

Task Force membership may be open to invite Indigenous architects to join. Indigenous architects are vastly under-represented in the profession and many, informally, feel disengaged and unattached to the RAIC. It would be a key demonstration of the prioritization of reconciliation within the RAIC to build up and support future Indigenous leaders in architecture.

Timeframe

July 2020- July 2021

- Monthly meetings via tele/video conference
- 90 minutes per meeting
- Face-to-face meeting in Montreal during Conference on Architecture (June 4-9, 2021)

² The RAIC is the leading voice for excellence in the built environment in Canada, demonstrating how design enhances the quality of life, while addressing important issues of society through responsible architecture.

³ To promote excellence in the built environment and to advocate for responsible architecture.

⁴ <https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/>

RAIC TRC Task Force Terms of Reference

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Mandate

The overarching mandate of the TRC Task Force is to facilitate sustainable actions that will foster reconciliation within the profession.

Reporting Structure/ Governance

The TRC Task Force reports to RAIC’s Board of Directors.

Membership

The Task Force comprises: 2 Indigenous architects Co-Chairs; 2 RAIC Board members; 2 RAIC staffers (who will serve as the Secretariat) and invited guests/allies as required – to serve as experts and inform deliberations of the Task Force and contribute to the Plan.

Frequency of Meetings

Monthly and via tele/video conference.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Task Force will be led by 2 Co-Chairs, who will chair the meetings
- Prepare agenda(s) for meetings
- Ensure discussions are in line with the mandate
- Provide updates to the Board if requested

Secretariat is responsible for

- Scheduling meetings
- Preparations and distribution of minutes and other material as required
- Serve as the intermediary between TRC Task Force, RAIC CEO & Board
- Task Force Members are responsible for:
 - Becoming familiar with key documents
 - Actively participating in meetings

- Applying their expertise and experience and providing and reviewing input
- Contributing to the development of a plan for presentation to the Board
- Invited guests/allies are responsible for:
 - Providing perspectives, inputs, expertise to the Task Force
 - Assisting in the development of the Plan