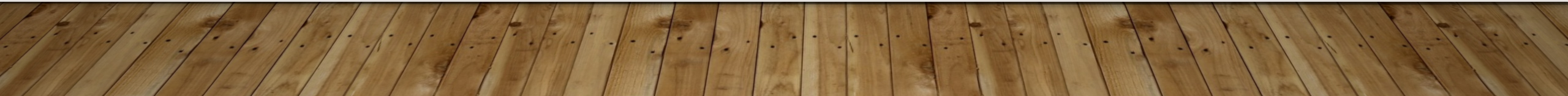


TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WITHIN EDUCATION

CYNTHIA WESLEY-ESQUIMAUX, CHAIR ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION,
LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY, THUNDER BAY AND ORILLIA



22 GENERAL CALLS TO ACTION ON EDUCATION

There are 7 Specific Calls to Action on Education

They note the need for culturally respectful curriculum, inclusion of Indigenous languages, spirituality, policy and practice – and correction of long standing deficiencies in funding at all levels for infrastructure & participation



WHAT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO INDIGENOUS INTERESTS?

RECOGNITION OF LANDS



RECOGNITION OF CULTURE



REPRESENTATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE & THOSE WHO WILL COME AFTER AND THEIR HEROES

People like Kahn-Tineta Horn and Waneek Miller-Horn have much to say about Education, Athletics, Learning and teaching – Kahn-Tineta was an early activist and her daughter is a contemporary activist – our people are not going away and therefore we need to integrate knowledges together!



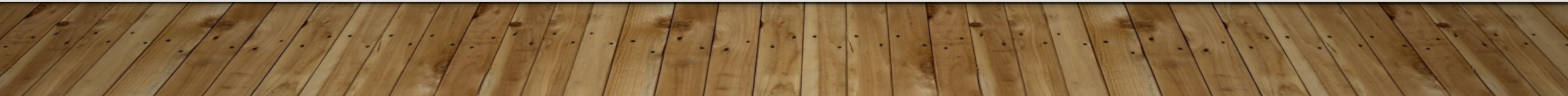
WE ARE HONOURING PEOPLE SUCH AS HELEN CROMARTY

It is not enough to simply honour people, we as an educational institution must also take action and fully amend our curriculum (ICR), offer long-distance degrees, support AI/ACSS and AMP and CLAN as ongoing programs so we can connect with and support Indigenous students in education and employment needs!



THERE ARE 7 SPECIFIC CALLS TO ACTION ON EDUCATION

11. WE CALL UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO END THE BACKLOG OF FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS SEEKING A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION – LAKEHEAD MUST SUPPORT AND VOCALIZE THIS CALL BECAUSE IT SPEAKS TO OUR NEEDS AS WELL



ONE OF THE 7 SPEAKS TO WHAT WE CAN DO...

- We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:
 - Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.
 - Improving education attainment levels and success rates.
 - Developing culturally appropriate curricula.
 - Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.
 - Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.
 - Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.
 - Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.

WHAT CAN I DO AS CTR TO ENSURE WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER?

I am prepared to come to your offices and organizations to outline and discuss the calls to Action

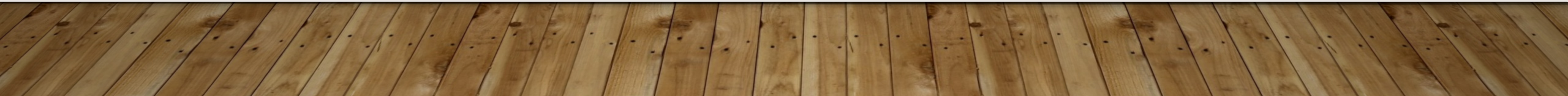
I can attend lunch and learns at Lakehead & other places

I can brainstorm with organizations and faculties on moving forward and ways we can work together?



MY ROLE IS TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT STEVENSON, AND KEEP PEOPLE UPDATED

- The Chair on Truth and Reconciliation is an advocacy chair and will work with internal and external issues to help NW Ontario implement the TRC Calls to Action
- I will work with Lakehead, Indigenous Leadership, Policing, justice, and non-Indigenous peoples to create and sustain a dialogue for change – acknowledgement & understanding
- I will keep an eye on local, regional and national activities and represent Lakehead at those tables where education is a large part of the conversation
- I will work hard to encourage the building and support of everything we need to ensure Indigenous youth and adults have access to education and employment in our region



WHERE DO WE GO
FROM HERE?

WHAT QUESTIONS
DO YOU HAVE NOW?

In addition, I have been appointed by the Minister for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Hon Carolyn Bennett, as her Special Representative on Child Welfare – with the goal of implementing complete REFORM of Child Welfare in Canada – Miigwetch!

