

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout

The Mayors Truth and Reconciliation Committee

2016-2017

Responses to the
Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada
Calls to Action

As of November 2017



The Municipality of Sioux Lookout wishes to acknowledge that we are on traditional lands of the First Nations of the Anishnawbe people of Lac Seul First Nation. Our work is dedicated to the survivors of the residential schools, their children, and any of those who have not survived the effects of the schools.



2016 National Aboriginal Day Celebrations

Contents

1	Message from Mayor Doug Lawrance and Chief Clifford Bull
2-3	Meet the Committee Members
4-5	Historical Background
6-7	Friendship Accord
8	National Truth and Reconciliation
9	The Mayor's Truth and Reconciliation Committee
10-14	Committee Initiatives
15-19	Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

Message from Mayor Doug Lawrance and Chief Clifford Bull



Mayor Doug Lawrance
Municipality of Sioux Lookout

"The Municipal path of reconciliation began years ago.

During the 2006 – 2010 Council term Mayor Kathy
Poling opened pathways of reconciliation especially
through outreach to youth. In the 2010-2014 term of
Council Mayor Dennis Leney signed the first Friendship
Accord. Prior to those Councils the Municipality was
engaged in reconciliation through the Four Party
Agreement on health and the Sioux Lookout
Anti-Racism Committee.

The impacts of Canada's Indian Residential School
System are evident in Sioux Lookout. Through the work
of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, Municipal
Council, Municipal Administration and Staff, and the
community at large, we hope to have a positive impact
on reconciliation. It is my belief that this work of
reconciliation with Indigenous People and First Nation
communities is the most important direction being
undertaken by the Municipality of Sioux Lookout".





Chief Clifford Bull Survivor Lac Seul First Nation

"As we are all fellow citizens of this vast, diverse, rich, proud country of Canada, we as Canadians must do our part whether large or small to acknowledge, learn and correct past and current injustices inflicted on indigenous peoples and communities.

I applaud the good work the Mayors Truth and Reconciliation Committee has done thus far and encourage them to continue to work towards healing and reconciliation".



Mayor Lawrance and Chief Bull at the National Aboriginal Day Canoe Races

Meet the Committee Members



Garnet Angeconeb Survivor, Pelican Lake Residential School Order of Canada Recipient

"Canada has a dark chapter in its history of the Indian Residential Schools system. It is a chapter about Indigenous people - children being trampled on by the implementation of state law in the name of assimilation. It is vital that we collectively acknowledge this history because the past matters.

Today the country has responded to the call for renewed relations: turning this shared and dark history into a place of hope and justice for all now and into the future. Sioux Lookout demonstrates its willingness to talk about healing and to walk the path of reconciliation".



Angela Carter Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Rep (NAN)

"Reconciliation means moving forward together in healing. By continuing to bring education and awareness of residential schools and the impacts we are building understanding and forming positive relationships for our future generations".



Darlene Angeconeb
Survivor, Pelican Lake Indian Residential
School

"I believe in reconciliation because Indian Residential Schools have had a great effect on our people and nations. The time has come to begin learning about ourselves and the true history of this country. We need to talk with one another and we need to engage in activities of reconciliation if we are going to set things right"



Kelly Anderson
Inter-generational Survivor
Mentor/Instructor
Sioux Hudson Literacy Council

"As an Inter-generational survivor, the residential school legacy has greatly impacted our personal and professionals lives as a whole community. To begin moving forward, we must embraced our past, our present, and our future to learn from our experiences and begin the long healing journey ahead of us. To learn from our past, we first must acknowledge our truth and speak it. We must share with each other, talk to one another, and work together to move towards reconciliation".

Meet the Committee Members



Marie Lands Survivor

"I congratulate the Town of Sioux Lookout Truth and Reconciliation Committee for bringing Education and Awareness to the Colonial History that Indigenous People have endured over centuries. Everyone involved is highly motivated to do the work necessary to keep moving forward with Reconciliation as it is necessary for the whole country. Maintaining Relationships has always been very important for Indigenous Nations. The effort being made through this Committee will allow us to keep widening and informing everyone's knowledge about the history. I continue to look forward in participating and make change happen where it needs to be made. Miigwech! For allowing me to part of this healing journey!"



Joyce Timpson
Municipal Counsellor
Municipality of Sioux Lookout

"For 4 decades I have worked in this area in social and health services. I am reminded daily of the deep harm that was thrust on the Anishnawbe by the Residential Schools and which is seen in in subsequent generations. The Committee is a small but important gesture towards reconciling the legacy of the Schools."



Ann Mitchell
CAO
Municipality of Sioux Lookout

"Sioux Lookout positioned as the Hub of the North has always been at the forefront of First Nations relationships and we continue to do so with the work of this committee. We are proud of the work we have done and continue to do."



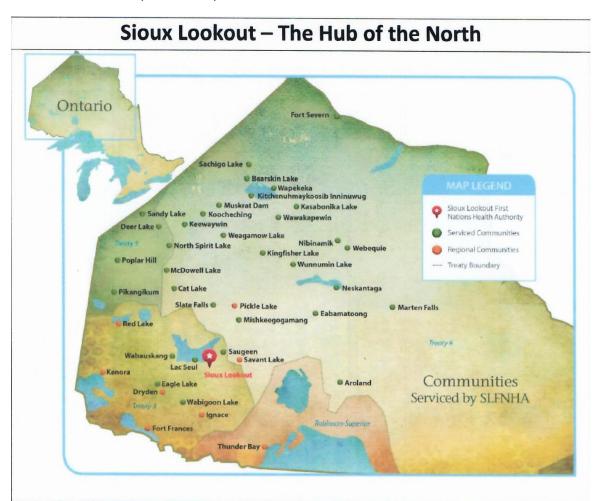
Meredith Culham
Staff Resource
Recreation & Culture Department
Municipality of Sioux Lookout

"I have learned so much about the Residential School experience, and the effects it had/has on all levels of survivors. As the staff resource for this committee, I hope to be able to continue in educating our community and set an example for others, as we continue to move forward in our Truth and Reconciliation efforts".

Historical Background

- **1873**: A Treaty was signed between the Queen and the First Nations of Treaty 3, Lac Seul signed adhesion in 1874
- 1930s flooding of Lac Seul for Hydro development
- 1927 -1979 Pelican Indian Residential School was in operation. There were 9 residential schools in Northwestern Ontario throughout this period, housing First Nations children from all over the northwest.
- 1976 the population of Sioux Lookout was approximately 300 First Nations
- 2017 the population of Sioux Lookout is approximately 6,000 of whom half are Indigenous people

Sioux Lookout is the service hub of a northern region with a population of 30,000 and an area the size of Germany (see map below). Ninety percent of the population served by Sioux Lookout is Indigenous. On any given day there are 700 to 800 people from the North in Sioux Lookout for health care, education, business and other reasons.



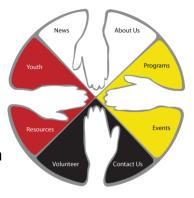
The map above has been prepared by the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority. It clearly depicts the First Nation communities whose people come to Sioux Lookout for health care. They also come for education, business, recreation, conferences, retail, family visits, travel, justice, and other reasons. The communities are situated in land areas covered by Treaty 9, Treaty 5, and Treaty 3.

Historical Background

 Mid 1950s – Sioux Lookout resident (Peggy Sanders) knits a bonnet for every child born at the "Indian (later 'the Zone') Hospital"



- Early 1970s The area First Nations Chiefs and Sioux Lookout
 Rotary Club worked together to create the Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre.
 - -Hostel managed by the Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre.
 - -Federal department of communications housed at the Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, which gave birth to Wawatay News.
- Mid 1980s First Nations open Tribal Council and other offices in Sioux Lookout
- 1988- The Town Council and community citizens formed the Sioux Lookout Anti-Racism Committee (SLARC). Garnet Angeconeb was been a key contributor to SLARC and continues his contribution as a member of the Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee



- 2006-2011 Municipal-First Nations Relationship building
 - Mutual outreach between Mayors and Chiefs, resulted in the creation of a Municipal-First Nations Economic Summit 2009
 - Municipal Council visits to Lac Seul
 - -all agreed that cooperation was essential and that a process for decision making was necessary
- June 21st, 2012 The Friendship Accord was signed by Lac Seul First Nation, Slate Falls First Nation and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout (Cat Lake signed in 2013 and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug in 2016)

SIOUX LOOKOUT FRIENDSHIP ACCORD

WHEREAS The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is committed to strengthening its relationships with First Nation governments and people in and around the Sioux Lookout area; AND WHEREAS the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord has been drafted to provide the overall framework upon which the Municipality will build agreements and action plans in partnership with First Nation governments and people;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Nation, recognizes the significant contributions First Nations people and The Municipality of Sioux Lookout, within the traditional area of Lac Seul First organizations have made to this community. Together, we acknowledge and honour our ancestors, traditions and the spirit of by the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and its employees. We acknowledge that we reside on Treaty 3 land and play an integral role as a 'service hub' to the Treaty 5 Sioux Lookout which first drew First Nations people together. We acknowledge and honour the long history of service to the community that continues to be embodied and Treaty 9 communities, and together we call upon our traditions and spirit to maintain a respectful and lasting relationship between the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and First Nation peoples. We believe that all people in the Sioux Lookout Area are served well through positive relationships between the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and the First Nation communities. We have a mutual need for First Nation people to be involved in all aspects of the community to ensure the ongoing development of culturally sensitive municipal services that meet First Nation needs. We believe that good relationships must be based upon a foundation of shared our community as well as our collective social, spiritual, economic and physical wellvalues of honesty, respect, mutual sharing and contribution. These values enhance being. They also serve our shared interests within the guidelines of accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, responsiveness and shared stewardship.







This principle-based relationship agreement between First Nation communities, people in the Sioux Lookout Area, and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, establishes commitments and objectives to be put in place in order to make Sioux Lookout a better place for all esidents and visitors. Milestones shall be set and our progress reviewed This Accord shall provide the framework for the development of agreements regarding, but not limited to, the following:

- The recognition and respect of the various levels of First Nation government, culture and people;
- Regional leadership, demonstrating how Municipal and First Nation governments can work together;
- The development of protocols to establish open and improved lines of communication;
 - Supporting First Nation culture and the development of recreation and leisure activities that are culturally appropriate;
- Encourage First Nation investment in Sioux Lookout including, but not limited to, people, culture, business, community and social participation;
- Increase First Nation participation in our local economy;
- Improve our community by making it more economically vibrant and sustainable;
- investing in our youth, the future of our community, by ensuring cultural, recreational, Educational, and career opportunities are readily available; and
- Addressing root causes relating to public safety, so that all residents and visitors feel safe and welcome in the community

The Friendship Accord Pillars

Resource Development
Emergency Preparedness and Waste
Management
Education and Youth
Social, Housing, Health and Community
Tourism, Commerce, Sports and Special
Events





Signing of the Friendship Accord



First Regional Meeting of Chiefs and Mayors

The Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and Calls to Action

Background

The Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was established on June 1st, 2008, by the Federal Government, with a mandate of five years.

As a component of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the National TRC was an independent body that oversees a process to provide former students and anyone who has been affected by the Indian Residential Schools legacy, with an opportunity to share their individual experiences in a safe and culturally appropriate manner.

The TRC scope primarily focused on the experiences of children who attended the schools. Its focus of research spans more than 100 years. It is the first Court-oriented truth commission to be established. As such, the Court plays an ongoing role in the implementation and supervision of the Commission.

The TRC mandate describes reconciliation as "an ongoing individual and collective process, and will require commitment from all those affected including First Nations, Inuit and Metis former Indian Residential School (IRS) students, their families, communities, religious entities, former school employees, government and the people of Canada".

The National TRC created 94 Calls to Action "In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canada reconciliation". The Calls to Action were divided into "Legacy" and "Reconciliation" sub categories.

Given Sioux Lookout's unique history and connection with First Nations, the Municipality has taken leadership in the area of building and sustaining relationships. In 2012, Lac Seul First Nation, Slate Falls First Nation (and later Cat Lake in 2013 and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug in 2016) and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout signed a Friendship Accord. The Accord emphasizes present and future collaboration and cooperation.

On August 3rd, 2016, Sioux Lookout Municipal Council passed the CAO, Ann Mitchell's report on the responses to the TRC Calls to Action. The purpose was "To begin the formal process of reconciliation between the Municipality and the neighbouring First Nations by the development of a response to the TRC Calls to Action to Municipal Government". As a result the Mayor's Truth and Reconciliation Committee was created to establish a scope and path for the Municipality.

The Mayor's Committee on Truth and Reconciliation



TRC members include: Mayor Doug Lawrance, CAO Ann Mitchell, Councillor Joyce Timpson,
Garnet Angeconeb, Marie Lands, Darlene Angeconeb, Kelly Anderson
and not in the photo: Chief Clifford Bull, Angela Carter and Meredith Culham (staff resource)

The Truth and Reconciliation Committee is very active both in the community and also carrying the role beyond our community. We believe we are a model for Municipal-First Nation Truth and Reconciliation and that our response aligns with the Province's "Journey Together" as well as the Federal Calls to Action.

The Committee began identifying those Calls to Action which were relevant to the Municipality and then began breaking down the 94 Calls to Action into sub-categories consisting of Business, Historical, Social and Political (see below). The Committee members continue to work at defining the scope for each of the sub-categories list while engaging community members in the process.

TRC Sub-Committees	Scope of Sub-Committee
Business	Language/Culture (Media & Reconciliation), Professional
	Development and Training for public servants, Business
	and Reconciliation
Historical	Museum and Archives, Missing Children and Burial
	Information, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation,
	Commemoration, Sports and Reconciliation
Social	Child Welfare, Education, Health, Justice, Churches
Political	UNDRIP, National Council for Reconciliation

Sioux Lookout Committee Initiatives

As a Municipality we continue to undertake activities across a broad front related to Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:

- Attended NAN 2017 Annual Conference in Lac Seul- provided opening remarks
- Attended Chiefs of Ontario Annual Assembly and provided opening remarks
- Attended Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly in Reginaand presented on FN-Municipal collaboration
- Attended NAN Chiefs Emergency Meeting on Education in Thunder Bay
- Ongoing advocacy MAG for alternative justice and community Justice
 Centre in Sioux Lookout
- Input and Advocacy into Far North Electoral Boundary Commission for new northern riding
- Continued relationship building through Friendship Accord
- Economic and social enterprise development through the First Nations
 Community Economic Development Hub in Sioux Lookout
- Four Party Agreement
 NAN/Municipality/Province/Federal-health
 initiative advocacy
- Regional Distribution Centre initiative, FCM CANDO
- Urban Indigenous Action Plan Municipal Participantion
- Created Police Services Board with Indigenous Chairperson
- Municipal participation on MOECC Municipal- First Nations Working Group re: Water Treatment



- Advocacy for Housing Projects- Emergency Shelter, Supportive and Transitional Housing
- Participation in Wawatay Monthly Municipal Radio Show
- Municipal Youth Centre Partnership with Friendship Centre
- Facilitation with Keewatin Patricia District School Board of Poverty
 Reduction Strategy
- Facilitation and Support for Situation Table
- District Mayors and Chiefs Annual Meetings
- Raising awareness of First Nation opportunities at Municipal and Provincial Association meetings



Participation and Representation at Ceremonies, Graduations, Events

Our Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee continues to be very active:

- The Committee has held 18 formal Committee meetings in its first year
- Acquired standing with MMIW inquiry and had informal meeting with Commissioner Audette.
- Members have presented on TRC at District and Regional Municipal Association conferences.
- The Committee has facilitated numerous public education and engagement events: Secret Path showing and forum, commemorative walks, youth music and art
- Participation in University research project on local residential school
- Open letter to Senator Beyak and committee hosted reconciliation meeting with Senator Beyak
- Presenting Committee recommendations to Municipal Council re: responses to Calls to Actions.

January 19th, 2017 – Pearl Wenjack and the Secret Path Viewing & Discussion Panel

The Committee partnered with the Sioux Lookout Community Museum, Equay-wuk Women's Group and Queen Elizabeth



High School to host two viewings (daytime & evening) of the Secret Path film, followed by a discussion panel consisting of special



guest Pearl Wenjack, Mayor Lawrance, Garnet Angeconeb

(survivor), Larry Henry (Treaty 3 rep/health support), Chief Clifford Bull (survivor). Pearl Wenjack also attended Pelican Falls High school to discuss the residential school system and participate in another viewing of the Secret Path film. The evening viewing was well attended with over 100 people in attendance. The "We were taught differently" exhibit from Lake of the Woods museum was also on display and a cake was shared to celebrate Chanie Wenjack's birthday.

February 23rd – Truth and Reconciliation Committee Open House

The Mayors Committee on Truth and Reconciliation held their first public meeting to discuss the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the municipalities' response to them. The attendees were broken into sub-categories (Business, Historical, Social and Political)



and discussed in smaller groups what needs to be done locally and later returned to have an overall discussion. Attendees were invited to assist the committee by getting involved in the sub-committees and discussing these topics further throughout the year.



July 11th- Special Reconciliation Meeting with Senator Beyak

In response to comments made by Senator Beyak, the Committee invited her to a meeting to discuss and share thoughts on Truth and Reconciliation and her recent public comments. The meeting was held in the healing room of the Meno Ya Win Health Centre in July. The committee felt the meeting was successful and gave each member an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings.



September 29th- Film Screening and Discussion

The Committee partnered with the Sioux Lookout Community Museum and Equay-wuk Women's Group to offer an evening of film screenings followed by a discussion. The films included "Cree Code Talkers", "Snare" and locally directed and narrated "Jane and the Wolf" with Nadine Arpin and Rachel Garrick leading the discussion. The purpose was to educate and share the various topics related to Truth and Reconciliation.



September 30th- Orange Shirt Day Commemorative Walk

The Committee partnered with the Sioux Lookout Community Museum, Hub Transit and Chamber of Commerce to host a commemorative orange shirt day walk. Participants met at the Travel Information Centre and were driven to the Frog Rapids to begin their trek back. A free community BBQ was offered by the Chamber of Commerce for anyone in attendance. The event was a success with over 50 people in attendance, of all ages.







"Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships. There are no shortcuts."

Justice Murray Sinclair

"Schedule A"

Mayor's Committee on Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations to Council in response to the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action

Education

Call to Action #8

We call upon the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout, if and when requested to do so, provides letters of support to the various Indigenous and non-Indigenous education agencies working in Sioux Lookout related to the elimination of the funding discrepancy between First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.

Call to Action #11

We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout, if and when requested to do so, provides letters of support to the various Indigenous and non-Indigenous education agencies working in Sioux Lookout related to the provision of adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking post-secondary education.

Health

Call to Action #23

We call upon all levels of government to:

- i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field
- ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health care providers in Aboriginal communities.
- iii. Provide cultural competency training for all health care professionals.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout continue involvement with the Four Party Agreement and advocacy for these and related health care issues.

Justice

Call to Action #31

We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout continue to advocate to Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General and Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for alternative justices methodologies, including system changes and required facilities, which would better serve the people traveling through the justice system and the community as a whole.

Call to Action #41

We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the cause of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:

- i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
- ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout supports the call for the public inquiry.

Royal Proclamation and Covenant

Call to Action #47

We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout commit to the following undertakings:

- 1. A review of By-Laws and determination of any proposed changes to be brought to Council related to Call to Action # 47.
- 2. Initiate process of review and possible change of geographic feature names, for features within the Municipality, from colonial names to original indigenous names.
- 3. Initiate process to review street names for possible changes to indigenous names reflective of local indigenous culture.
- 4. Initiate process to incorporate Ojicree name for Sioux Lookout (Waanaawakaank) into Municipal letterheads, signage.
- 5. Develop and install culturally appropriate welcoming and acknowledging signage at Airport and highway entries into town to welcome indigenous visitors.
- 6. Initiate two annual joint Council meetings with Lac Seul- one in each community.
- 7. Initiate annual meetings of Sioux Lookout Council and Friendship Accord Chiefs.
- 8. Explore the development of standing agreements with Friendship Accord communities related to emergency situations.
- 9. Work jointly with Lac Seul First Nation on disposition of Federal Zone Hospital land in Sioux Lookout.
- 10. Initiate appropriate acknowledgement of traditional territory and people at beginning of Sioux Lookout Council meetings.
- 11. Transform the Mayor's Committee for Truth and Reconciliation into a regular Municipal committee.

Public Servants

Call to Action #57

We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based on training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution human rights, and anti-racism.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout commits to undertaking the recommendation of Call to Action #57.

Missing Children and Burial Information Call to Action #75

We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current land owners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the on-going identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout works with relevant agencies to assist with the implementation of Call to Action #75.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #77

We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal and community archives to work collaboratively the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout work collaboratively with local indigenous organizations regarding the actions to be taken in response to Call to Action # 77.

Sports

Call to Action #87

We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

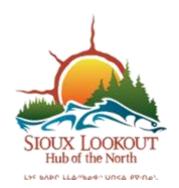
Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout continues to collaborate with researchers and others undertaking the work of compiling and telling the story of Aboriginal athletes in this area.

Call to Action #88

We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

Recommendation: The Municipality of Sioux Lookout work with area First Nations as new sports facilities are developed such that opportunities are created for collaboration, contribution, and inclusive use of Municipal facilities and programs.





Updated November 2017 Created by the Mayors Truth and Reconciliation Committee