

Encompass Support Services Society - Statement of Reconciliation

“Let us find a way to belong to this time and place together. Our future, and the well-being of all our children rests with the kind of relationships we build today.” – **Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, O.B.C.**

Encompass Support Services Society (Encompass) recognizes the significance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), the release of the TRC’s Final Report and its Calls to Action¹. This statement signifies Encompass’ acknowledgement of the findings in the report, and outlines the actions our agency is committed to in order to work towards reconciliation.

Encompass acknowledges that the legacy of colonization (such as residential schools and the Sixties’ Scoop) has been one of trauma and pain with which Indigenous² people continue to cope with - as individuals, families and as a community.

We recognize that reconciliation can only be accomplished when we come from a place of understanding the truth about our shared history and when we have mutual respect for each other. We acknowledge that this is the responsibility of all Canadians, and, with this statement, Encompass commits to addressing and acting on the TRC’s Calls to Action that are relevant to the work that we do.

We recognize that language, culture and education are fundamental aspects in Indigenous communities. Encompass is committed to establishing effective, sustainable partnerships with Indigenous agencies and communities, and to working collaboratively to develop culturally appropriate programs and policies in order to enhance the lives of those we support.

We recognize that the natural world is a sacred place - it is part of food resources, healing practices, and spirituality and, therefore, it must be respected. We acknowledge that the programs, services and offices of Encompass are on the unceded, sovereign Indigenous lands of the Coast Salish People. This includes the territories of Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations.

Commitments

Encompass Support Services Society is committed to addressing the following Calls to Action as set out by the TRC:

0-6 Programs (Pregnant & Parenting Youth, Best Babies, Family Place, Langley Education Centre)

- In response to call 5 – We commit to developing culturally appropriate parenting programs for Indigenous families; and to encourage and support other community agencies in developing their own reconciliation statements and their work towards truth and reconciliation.
- In response to call 12 – We commit to developing culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous families. We commit to partnering with community agencies to deliver programming.

Youth Services

- In response to call 38 – We add our support to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.
- In response to call 66 – We commit to providing culturally appropriate programs for Indigenous youth; and to partnering with community agencies to deliver programs on reconciliation. We commit to establish a network to share information and best practices.

Encompass Support Services Society, as a whole

- In response to call 92 (iii) – We commit to provide continuing education for management and staff 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 includes skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.
- We commit to make land acknowledgments at Encompass-hosted meetings and events.
- We will ensure that Encompass' strategic plans includes goals to further reconciliation and to create a reconciliation plan that specifies how to achieve these goals. We will review these goals annually.

Encompass Support Services Society “shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society” (Article 15 (2), page 7, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*).

Our agency is committed to the journey towards reconciliation; and to fostering a sense of understanding, inclusivity and collaboration. We are dedicated to our vision of empowering individuals, connecting people and enriching lives.

Encompass Support Services Society will evaluate our commitments and the progress we are making annually when we review our Strategic Plan and when we provide an Outcomes Report to those who sit on our Indigenous Advisory Council.

Footnotes:

1. To see the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Final Report and their 94 Calls to Action, visit www.trc.ca.
2. We have used the term “Indigenous” to be inclusive of all First Peoples of Canada, people who have inhabited Turtle Island (also known as Canada) since time immemorial. These include Status, Non Status, First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

References:

1. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, www.trc.ca.
2. BC Association of Family Resource Programs, www.frpbc.ca.
3. United Way of the Lower Mainland, www.uwlm.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/United-Way-of-the-Lower-Mainland-Statement-of-Reconciliation.pdf
4. YMCA Canada, www.ymca.ca/Who-We-Are/Statement-of-Reconciliation
5. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf