

ELCC ADVISORS' NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Why the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action Matter in Early Learning

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (2015), 12, 62, and 63 address the role of education in reconciliation. Call to Action 12 urges governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous children, recognizing that identity, belonging, and cultural continuity begin in the earliest years. Calls to Action 62 and 63 extend this responsibility across the education system, calling for age-appropriate learning about Indigenous histories, Treaties, and the ongoing impacts of residential schools, alongside sustained professional learning for educators. For early learning professionals, these Calls to Action invite reflection on whose stories are being told, how Indigenous children see themselves reflected in programs, and how all children are supported to develop respect, empathy, and understanding from the start.

While individual educators play a critical role through inclusive pedagogy, culturally responsive environments, and ongoing self-reflection, these Calls to Action also require systemic commitment. Municipalities and governing bodies influence funding priorities, policy development, professional learning opportunities, and partnerships with Indigenous communities. Meaningful reconciliation cannot rely solely on individual effort. It must be supported by sustained investment, Indigenous-led decision-making, and structures that value Indigenous knowledge systems as foundational rather than supplementary. When educators and municipalities work together, reconciliation becomes embedded in everyday practice, policy, and community life, creating learning environments where Indigenous children feel a true sense of belonging, and all children grow up with a more truthful understanding of Canada's shared history.

June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada

Honouring National Day for Indigenous Peoples is an important opportunity for early learning and child care programs to reflect on how Métis, First Nations and Inuit children, families, and ways of knowing are welcomed and represented in daily practice. Métis inclusion is not about a one-day learning session or a single resource. It is about building respectful, ongoing relationships with culture, community, and history. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission reminds us, through Calls to Action 12, 62, and 63, that education systems have a responsibility to ensure that Indigenous histories, perspectives, and contributions are meaningfully embedded from the earliest years. When early learning environments intentionally include Métis stories, land-based learning, and authentic cultural representation, they help create spaces where Métis children can see themselves reflected and valued.

These commitments align closely with the four foundations of How Does Learning Happen? Belonging is strengthened when Métis children and families feel seen, respected, and welcomed as they are. Well-being is supported when children's identities are affirmed, and their cultures are honoured in safe, caring environments. Engagement grows when learning is connected to land, community, and lived experience, while Expression is encouraged through storytelling, art, movement, and play that reflect Métis ways of knowing. By embracing Métis inclusion as part of everyday practice, educators contribute to reconciliation in meaningful, actionable ways, ensuring that early learning settings are places of respect, relationship, and responsibility for all children.

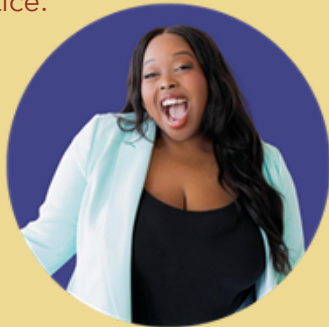
An Evening with... Anisha Angella

Tuesday, September 16, 2026, at 6:30 pm EST - 8:00 pm EST

It Starts with You: Building a Culture of DEI with Awareness and Action is an engaging, reflective workshop designed to help early childhood educators become stronger allies to Métis, First Nations and Inuit children, families, and coworkers across the early learning field. Taking place just ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the session intentionally connects DEI practice to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, with particular attention to Calls to Action 12, 62, and 63, which call on educators to build understanding, respect, and inclusive learning environments grounded in Indigenous perspectives. Participants will explore the role of personal and systemic bias, deepen self-awareness, and examine how culturally responsive and inclusive practices foster children's sense of identity, belonging, and well-being. Through virtual activities, meaningful dialogue, and practical strategies, educators will strengthen cultural competence, enhance relationships with Métis, First Nations and Inuit families and communities, and support respectful, inclusive workplace cultures.

The workshop culminates in guided action planning, empowering participants to move beyond awareness into sustained, meaningful action that honours Indigenous voices and supports reconciliation in everyday early learning practice.

Register today!



Integrating Métis Connections into Early Learning through How Does Learning Happen?

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 9:30 am EST - 11:30 am EST

This presentation supports early learning and child care educators in deepening their understanding of Ontario Métis history, values, and traditions, and in exploring meaningful and respectful ways to include Métis perspectives in early learning environments. Grounded in How Does Learning Happen?, the session invites educators to reflect on the four foundations of belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression through a Métis lens, offering practical connections between pedagogy, culture, and everyday practice. Educators will also strengthen their understanding of cultural appreciation versus cultural appropriation, with guidance on ethical, respectful engagement that honours Métis communities, knowledge holders, and lived experiences. Through reflection, discussion, and culturally grounded examples, this presentation encourages educators to move beyond awareness toward thoughtful action that supports identity, inclusion, and reconciliation in the early years.

Register today



Scan for Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action



Reference
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). Calls to action. National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. https://nctr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Métis Nation
of Ontario