

# **FOUNDATIONS PARTNERING FOR RECONCILIATION**

## **Summit Report**

**Toronto, Ontario**

**Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of New Credit**

**June 16, 2016**

This report provides a summary of the Foundations Partnering for Reconciliation Summit, hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and held on June 16, 2016, at Queen's Park, in Toronto on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. It includes an overview of the Foundations Partnering for Reconciliation initiative, summarizes the proceedings of the FPR Summit, and sets out the action items identified for further discussion. The report is being circulated in draft form to participants at the Summit for comment, following which it may be more broadly circulated.

### **1. OVERVIEW OF FOUNDATIONS PARTNERING FOR RECONCILIATION**

The Foundations Partnering for Reconciliation (FPR) initiative is intended to build on the commitments made in the *Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action* ("Declaration"), which was presented to the Truth and Reconciliation's closing ceremony on June 2, 2015 by a group of thirty foundations and philanthropic organizations from across Canada. In the Declaration, signatories pledged to advance the process of Reconciliation through listening, understanding, and taking action as allies of Indigenous peoples.

Over the past year, many Declaration signatories have worked hard to advance Reconciliation, both within their organizations and in collaboration with others. A pre-Summit survey of signatories indicated that, since signing the Declaration, 95% have made efforts to strengthen their relationships with Indigenous peoples, 90% have participated in educational sessions on Indigenous culture and issues, and 50% have increased the number and/or value of grants to Indigenous organizations or projects.

The FPR Summit took place one year after the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) issued its Calls to Action and the philanthropic community presented its Declaration. The Summit's objective was to assist Ontario-based Declaration signatories working toward Reconciliation by:

- a. increasing awareness of current initiatives, successes and challenges, and exploring the potential for further action in partnership with Indigenous peoples; and
- b. strengthening relationships amongst philanthropic organizations and Indigenous leaders, communities and experts to better understand Indigenous priorities and approaches.

Foundations Partnering for Reconciliation is a collaborative initiative, co-created by Inspirit Foundation, The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, and a group of philanthropic foundations and organizations. Key partners, and members of the Summit planning committee included representatives of:

Community Foundations Canada, The Counselling Foundation of Canada, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Philanthropic Foundations Canada, the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, and Tides Canada. Each of these foundations are members of The Circle and signatories to the Declaration. The committee was led by Shari Austin (formerly of RBC), who has provided consulting services in support of the FPR initiative. Funding was provided by Inspirit Foundation.

## 2. FPR SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Participation in the Summit was limited to representatives of Declaration signatories (charitable foundations, corporate foundations and donors, and philanthropic sector organizations) and Indigenous organizations in Ontario, although a small number of exceptions were made to ensure appropriate expertise on the topics under discussion. A total of 51 participants attended the Summit, with 31% of those identifying as Indigenous. Representatives of 26 Declaration signatories were in attendance. *For a full listing of participants, please see **Appendix I** at the end of this report.*

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, hosted the Summit in her suite at Queen's Park in Toronto, and was in attendance throughout the session. Summit facilitators were Andrea Nemtin of Inspirit Foundation, and Wanda Brascoupé Peters, of The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.

## 3. FPR PRINCIPLES

In a briefing paper sent to participants prior to the Summit, six foundational principles were proposed to Declaration signatories:

- i. **Recognition of past injustices** in Canada toward Indigenous peoples, including with respect to residential schools, and of the continuing consequences of these injustices for Indigenous peoples;
- ii. **Commitment to Reconciliation** with Indigenous peoples and to actively working toward some or all of the TRC's recommendations;
- iii. **Intention to support Indigenous-led and focused organizations and projects**, wherever possible, fostering self-determination in communities, building capacity, and supporting innovative ways forward;
- iv. **Engagement in building respectful relationships** on the basis of cultural awareness, co-creation and partnership with Indigenous people and organizations, and acknowledgement of the diversity of Indigenous peoples;
- v. **Commitment to the importance of measuring the impact of our activities** by establishing goals, measuring outcomes and impacts, and evaluating results; and
- vi. **Use of an asset-based and positive approach**, with a primary focus on strengths and capabilities rather than on problems and challenges.

These principles guided the Summit design and proceedings.

#### **4. SUMMIT PROCEEDINGS**

The Summit agenda was designed to be informative, participatory, and action-oriented. This section sets out the highlights of the FPR Summit proceedings:

##### **a) Opening and Introductory Remarks**

Elder Pauline Shirt opened the Summit with a prayer and words of support for the FPR initiative. She spoke about the importance of all voices being heard and of participants working together in “a good way”. Human and humble perspectives must be emphasized in all dealings. Elder Shirt then spoke and sang in her language and asked us to listen with openness and respect, learn, and use our time together wisely in our walk toward Reconciliation.

Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, welcomed attendees to her Suite at Queen’s Park. She acknowledged Toronto as the sacred gathering place of the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island, and the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. The Lieutenant Governor stated that she was pleased to offer a safe and neutral space to listen, learn, and engage in dialogue on important topics and concerns of our day. Participants were reminded that the proceedings would be subject to Chatham House Rules, and therefore no attribution of comments would be made to specific individuals without prior consent.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed the view that Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is a defining issue of our country and our age. This is a particularly important and hopeful moment in time to move forward with the FPR initiative, which aims to build mutually respectful and collaborative relationships through concrete actions. She referenced the May 30th Ontario Government statement of commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and its formal apology for the abuses inflicted on survivors of the Residential School System. With this, and in sight of the 150th anniversary of Confederation, it is time to reimagine a Canada that is true to its values, strong in its diversity, and a beacon of hope to the world.

The co-facilitators of the Summit, Andrea Nemtin and Wanda Brascoupé Peters, outlined the reasons for organizing the Summit, and provided an overview of the agenda. Wanda acknowledged the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, and thanked the Lieutenant Governor for generously offering to host the event. She referenced the importance of the British Crown to Indigenous peoples, with the Royal Proclamation in 1763 confirming the original occupancy of Indigenous Peoples, and paving the way for nation-to-nation treaties between the British Crown and Indigenous Peoples.

Andrea thanked Elder Pauline Shirt for starting us in a place of hope and belief, both in ourselves and each other. She also thanked Shari Austin for her partnership and support in bringing the group together and in

leading the design and organization of the Summit. Planning committee members (Victoria Grant, Bruce Lawson, Elisa Levi, Nicole MacDonald, Sara Lyons, Lucie Santoro, Hilary Pearson, Sarah Pinchevsky, Ross McMillan and Elissa Beckett) were acknowledged and thanked for their efforts and ideas. Andrea thanked all participants for attending this first-ever gathering of philanthropic community members and Indigenous representatives. She emphasized that the work of the day would be intensive and multi-faceted (personal, organizational, and systemic).

Wanda commented that we currently have a unique window of opportunity for progress, and recalled the milestones of the past year, including: the TRC Report and Calls to Action, the Federal Government's statements of support for the TRC Calls to Action, for a nation-to-nation approach, and for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the recent Ontario Government apology and commitment to action. She also mentioned the Environics Institute survey of Canadian public opinion, released the previous week. The survey found that an increasing majority of non-Indigenous Canadians recognize the historic disparities and current challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples, and more than 8 in 10 Canadians believe that they have a role to play in Reconciliation.

### **b) Participant Introductions**

To assist in the immersion of learning and sharing, the co-facilitators asked Summit participants to form a circle around the perimeter of the room for introductions. This is a practice for many Indigenous peoples globally, and in particular, the Ojibway, on whose traditional lands the meeting took place.

Participants introduced themselves by sharing their names, clan or place of origin, and a "word of the day". Words offered included:

- ⊗ peace, compassion, honour, patience, courage, emotion, thanks
- ⊗ focus, learn, share, commitment, conviction, accountability, responsibility
- ⊗ hope, optimism, inspiration, joy, youth, excitement, opportunity, possibility, now
- ⊗ respect, friendship, acceptance, honesty
- ⊗ building, action, progress, renewal, turning point
- ⊗ justice, identity

*For a list of participants, please see **Appendix 1** to this report.*

### **c) Table Discussions and Reports**

Discussion tables were set up for participants to deepen their understanding and share perspectives on six topics of relevance to Reconciliation:

Table One:	Building Relationships with Indigenous Peoples
Table Two:	Anchoring Reconciliation in Your Organization
Table Three:	Granting Strategies and Issues
Table Four:	Measurement and Evaluation

Table Five: Impact Investing  
Table Six: Public Policy and Government Relations

Summit participants had the opportunity to engage in two separate table discussions of forty minutes. Each table discussion was led by two co-hosts, one Indigenous and the other non-Indigenous, who helped guide the conversation on the assigned topic.

Discussion tables were asked to address the following questions in relation to the table's assigned topic:

1. What is working well?
2. What are the challenges?
3. What are the opportunities?
4. In order to move forward:
  - what can I do?
  - what can my organization do?
  - what can we do together as a philanthropic sector?

Following the discussion table sessions, table hosts were asked to report back to the full Summit, providing a synopsis of the discussion, with particular emphasis on opportunities and actions that could move us toward Reconciliation.

Summaries of the table discussions, and actions identified, may be found in **Appendix II** at the end of this report.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

As can be seen from the summary of table discussions in Appendix II, philanthropic organizations are highly engaged and interested in deepening their work on Reconciliation, and Indigenous partners are ready and able to both lead and collaborate. A great many excellent ideas for action were discussed at the Summit tables, and a significant number of those ideas arose at multiple tables. This section of the report separates the action ideas into short-term and longer-term actions in order to assist signatories and Indigenous partners in further assessing and prioritizing them.

### Short-term Action Items

As an **individual**, I can:

1. Read (and re-read) the 94 TRC Calls to Action and Summary Report, The Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. Commit to an education plan of reading, seminars. Reach out to Indigenous people and organizations, and accept invitations to learn, collaborate and support.
3. Share my personal commitment to Reconciliation with others inside and outside of my organization.
4. Engage in active and non-judgmental listening to develop cultural awareness and educate myself on the history, culture and contemporary realities of Indigenous peoples.

As **organizations**, we can:

5. Identify the TRC Calls to Action that pertain to our own activities and spheres of influence, and identify ways to deepen our impacts in those areas (and/or choose new ones).
6. Arrange for Board and staff education seminars and experiences on Indigenous culture and key issues.
7. Encourage other philanthropic organizations to sign the Declaration.
8. Recognize traditional Indigenous territories at all public meetings and events as a gesture of cultural awareness and respect.
9. As grantors, co-create goals up-front with Indigenous grant recipients, and provide additional supports in the application process.
10. Provide increased support for language-related projects and initiatives.

As a **philanthropic sector**, we can:

11. Increase shared funding to The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada to properly support its work in furthering the Declaration of Action, including: increasing number of signatories to the Declaration, building organizational capacity, developing a fundraising plan, mapping the ecosystem of funding for Indigenous organizations, enhancing communication vehicles, monitoring

and profiling of progress of signatories, and providing additional outreach and support for signatories.

12. Determine the need for a Working Group on Impact and Measurement that would develop a framework for establishing, measuring and evaluating the impact of Reconciliation-related philanthropic gifts and partnerships.
13. Determine the need for a Working Group on Impact Investing that would scan and profile available Indigenous investments, broaden awareness and support, and increase funds available for investment.
14. Determine a “home of best fit” to enable the coordination (as appropriate) of organizations working on government advocacy relating to Reconciliation to share activities and plans. Consider starting with a focus on Ontario.
15. Arrange for similar Summits to be held in other provinces, in order to build broader momentum for this initiative, with Quebec, BC, Alberta and Manitoba to be considered priorities. Work with local foundations to approach Lieutenant Governors to host. Involve the Governor General at an appropriate point.
16. Plan to further this work at several upcoming conferences, including the Philanthropic Foundations Canada Conference in Vancouver in November, and The Circle’s All My Relations Conference in Ottawa in May, 2017.

### **Longer-term Action Items**

As a **philanthropic sector**, we can:

17. Develop a logo signifying commitment to Reconciliation (and/or signing of the Declaration) to more broadly encourage and enhance ownership of the journey to Reconciliation.
18. Work with the Canada Revenue Agency on issues relating to Qualified Donee Status and funding restrictions on Indigenous organizations, and examine the potential to develop a guide for Indigenous organizations to align to the requirements.
19. Create/support a Declaration Fund to increase and expedite funding to Indigenous organizations working on Reconciliation-related programs. Currently, several foundations are developing such a fund, to be used to seed or grow innovative ideas, activities and initiatives that advance the TRC Calls to Action and the Declaration commitments. Consider scaling this initiative to include more foundations, in due course.
20. Create a granting guide for the Indigenous context, covering culturally appropriate program design, consultation and granting processes. Offer seminars and assistance to funders and to Indigenous organizations.
21. Develop an Indigenous Human Resources strategy, to train and advance Indigenous foundation professionals across multiple foundations, and to support their efforts to further educate Indigenous organizations on philanthropy.

The FPR Summit Planning Committee sincerely thanks all Summit Participants for their valuable time, insights, and ideas for further action on the road to Reconciliation! Additional information and opportunities to participate will be provided in the coming weeks.

## Appendix I: Participant List

### FPR Summit - June 16, 2016

Shari Austin  
*Shari Austin & Company*

Karen Baker-Anderson  
*Ottawa Inuit Childrens' Centre*

Joseph Bastien  
*Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business*

Elissa Beckett  
*Tides Canada*

Wanda Brascoupé Peters  
*The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada*

Jennifer Brennan  
*Samuel Family Foundation*

Tim Brodhead  
*Inspirit Foundation*

Laura Butler  
*Pathy Foundation*

Valerie Chort  
*RBC Foundation*

Charlie Coffey  
*Canadians For a New Partnership*

Andrea Cohen Barrack  
*Trillium Foundation*

Stephen Couchman  
*The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada*

Jeff Cyr  
*National Association of Friendship Centres of Canada*

Peter Dinsdale  
*YMCA*

Pegi Dover  
*Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Association*

Elizabeth Dowdeswell  
*Lieutenant Governor of Ontario*

John Good  
*Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough*

Victoria Grant  
*Community Foundations Canada*

Scott Haldane  
*Rideau Foundation*

Anthony Hylton  
*Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario*

Karen Joseph  
*Reconciliation Canada*

Gwen Joy  
*Inspirit Foundation*

Stephen Kakfwi  
*Canadians for a New Partnership*

Betul Keles  
*Laidlaw Foundation*

Richard Kistabish  
*Legacy of Hope Foundation*

Jamie Laidlaw  
*Laidlaw Foundation*

Lisa Lalande  
*Mowat NFP*

Kerri Langlois  
*Gordon Foundation*

Bruce Lawson  
*The Counselling Foundation*

Valerie Lemieux  
*Catherine Donnelly Foundation*

Elisa Levi  
*The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in  
Canada*

Puneet Luthra  
*Inspire*

Peter Lyman  
*Inspirit Foundation*

Sara Lyons  
*Community Foundations Canada*

Nicole McDonald  
*McConnell Foundation*

Monica McKay  
*Ryerson University Aboriginal Education Council*

Helen McLean  
*Donner Foundation*

Faisal Moola  
*David Suzuki Foundation*

Andrea Nemtin  
*Inspirit Foundation*

Sandra Odendahl  
*RBC*

Hilary Pearson  
*Philanthropic Foundations Canada*

Valerie Picher  
TD  
Sarah Pinchevsky  
*Philanthropic Foundations Canada*

Sheryl Ries  
*Reconciliation Canada*

Mark Sevestre  
*National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association*

Pauline Shirt  
*Elder*

Karen Shelstad  
*The Lawson Foundation*

Juliana Sprott  
*Sprott Foundation*

Anne Taylor  
*Curve Lake First Nation*

Andria Teather  
*Jane Goodall Institute of Canada*

Cheryl Trudeau  
*Ryerson University Aboriginal Education Council*

Harry Willmot  
*The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in  
Canada, and RBC*

## Appendix II: Table Discussion Summary

FPR Summit - June 16, 2016

This Appendix provides a summary of the six table discussions and the key action items identified. *Note: Table discussions took place with two separate groups of participants, and the summaries below synthesize those discussions.*

Table One <b>BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES</b> Co-hosts: Victoria Grant & Bruce Lawson	
<b>Topic Overview</b>	At its core, Reconciliation is about building new relationships, and strengthening current ones, with Indigenous peoples. This table explored ways in which we can educate ourselves and our organizations, deepen our cultural knowledge and sensitivity to language, discuss what collaboration and co-creation mean in spirit and action, and identify ways in which we can be more effective allies to Indigenous peoples.
<b>Discussion Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to develop relationships before moving to action e.g. proper introductions and breaking bread together are simple but important.</li> <li>• Need to lessen reliance on governments to solve problems. However, government engagement is critical, including municipal leaders, since so many Indigenous people are in urban centres.</li> <li>• Understanding history is vitally important, as its consequences continue to be deeply felt. We must seek to embed the real Indigenous history in school curricula if we are to make lasting progress.</li> <li>• Loss of language is a critical issue, particularly for young people in rural and remote areas. Must ensure that youth are connected to culture and language to reinforce personal identity and self-esteem.</li> <li>• Risk that self-censorship and fear of offending will stand in the way of relationships.</li> <li>• Indigenous people have a responsibility to educate and guide others. Recognize that racism runs both ways - Indigenous and non-Indigenous people have inherent, and sometime unconscious, biases.</li> <li>• Understand that Chief and Council are not the only community voices.</li> <li>• Power imbalances and misunderstandings in Indigenous/non-Indigenous relationships (especially funding relationships) can lead to non-Indigenous organizations "taking over" in partnerships. Indigenous organizations tend to be reticent about addressing these situations.</li> <li>• As funders, we have often tried to integrate Indigenous funding into various other funding streams, but it may now be time to make this a dedicated stream of funding. Ensure funding programs are co-created with Indigenous partners.</li> <li>• We focus too much on what is not working. Increase focus on the positive, and recognize successes large and small.</li> <li>• Have patience and keep showing up. These issues were created over many years, and will take many years to work through!</li> </ul>

**Table One****BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES****Co-hosts: Victoria Grant & Bruce Lawson****Actions Identified**

1. As an individual
  - a. Commit to learning about Indigenous history, language, culture and organizations.
  - b. Be willing to be uncomfortable and admit when you don't know.
  - c. Read (and re-read) the TRC Calls to Action, the Philanthropic Community's Declaration, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
  - d. Recognize power imbalances, and act on discrimination when you encounter it. Understand your own inherent biases and prejudices, and recognize that racism resides on both sides.
  
2. As an organization:
  - a. Recognize the traditional territories at all public meetings.
  - b. Seek out Indigenous partners as guides and advisors for your organization, and create methodical engagement plans together.
  - c. Incorporate Indigenous agendas into your own, but take care not to take over in partnerships and disenfranchise Indigenous partners.
  - d. Inspire other foundations and corporations to come to the table and sign the Declaration.
  - e. Seek to partner with others - don't recreate the wheel.
  - f. Provide grants to Indigenous organizations to enable them to participate in meetings and events. Capacity and budget for this is limited, and the demands are high.
  - g. Ensure that granting programs are co-created with Indigenous partners - co-creation is an act of reconciliation in and of itself.
  
3. As a philanthropic sector:
  - a. Find ways to amplify stories and successes - "there are a thousand flowers blooming - now is the time to elevate the garden for all to see"

<b>Table Two ANCHORING RECONCILIATION IN YOUR ORGANIZATION</b> <b>Co-hosts: Jennifer Brennan and Karen Joseph</b>	
<b>Topic Overview</b>	Anchoring Reconciliation in organizations can occur organically, but it usually requires clear intention with strong leadership and organizational support. This table explored practical suggestion for developing organizational strategy, practices and policies from a framework of Reconciliation.
<b>Discussion Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational relationships are built from personal relationships. Work to develop personal awareness of Indigenous history and issues, and champion Reconciliation within your own organization.</li> <li>• Learn from other organizations and networks, share inspiration and energy, invite creativity. Be prepared for conflict, listen and be a myth-buster.</li> <li>• This is about justice and human rights, and these are at the core of the mission for many foundations. If not foundations, then who?</li> <li>• It is important to have Indigenous people on staff and on your Board.</li> <li>• Invest in resource development and capacity building, both within your organization and in your grant recipient organizations.</li> <li>• It may be useful to focus on 2017 (150th anniversary of Confederation) as an opportunity to move the work forward, create a sense of urgency and mobilize resources.</li> <li>• A number of foundations (e.g. David Suzuki Foundation) are reframing their engagement with Indigenous peoples and recognizing this as a core mission and strategy.</li> <li>• Review the TRC Calls to Action, UNDRIP, and other resources, to help develop a clear framework for working with Indigenous peoples.</li> <li>• Need for more, and better trained, Indigenous professionals in foundations.</li> <li>• Indigenous communities and organizations do not have sufficient access to information about foundations granting to Indigenous projects, or about how to apply for grants.</li> </ul>

**Table Two**

**ANCHORING RECONCILIATION IN YOUR ORGANIZATION**

**Co-hosts: Jennifer Brennan and Karen Joseph**

**Actions Identified**

1. As an individual:
  - a. Take ownership, make this a personal priority, champion Reconciliation within your own organization and share learnings with colleagues
  
2. As an organization:
  - a. Recognize traditional territories at all public events
  - b. Increase Indigenous representation on your staff and Board
  - c. Educate your staff and Board, and engage them in conversations about Reconciliation
  - d. Use Indigenous suppliers and partners
  - e. Embed Reconciliation as a core value through your organization, make your priority clear, make a pledge, state targets, articulate principles, revise policies and procedures using an Indigenous lens, and publicly report on your work
  - f. Encourage others to sign the Declaration and play a leadership role
  
3. As a philanthropic sector:
  - a. Conduct an annual survey of Declaration signatories to determine what is being done and what is working (or not).
  - b. Develop a certification program and logo, with commitments and reporting requirements, for Declaration signatories.
  - c. Increase funding for The Circle to allow it to take responsibility for the above two bullet items, to profile the great things organizations can do and are doing, and to reach out to organizations to offer support and guidance.
  - d. Develop an Indigenous HR strategy/program to jointly develop Indigenous foundation professionals, and “exchange” them between organizations, and to help develop education and training in philanthropy for Indigenous communities and organizations.

**Table Three GRANTING STRATEGIES AND ISSUES**  
**Co-hosts: Pegi Dover & Elisa Levi**

**Topic Overview**

The grant-making activities of foundations offer opportunities to build meaningful relationships with Indigenous organizations and communities. This table discussed ways to create more inclusive and culturally appropriate granting strategies, policies and programs.

**Discussion Summary**

- Funder collaboration and partnering is working reasonably well in the Indigenous space. For example, Tides Canada has funder collaboratives in Manitoba and NWT, focused on building leadership capacity and youth leadership, and also has Guardian Watchmen program on the BC coast. But, sometimes it is difficult for funders to find each other.
- Good to see holistic approaches to funding that simultaneously address environmental, social, economic issues. For example, McConnell Foundation and Tides are working together to get Northern communities off diesel, while also tackling food, housing and drinking water issues.
- Challenging that there are essentially two world views involved, and a lack of cultural competency spanning the two. Need to value and meld Indigenous knowledge and Western science.
- Multi-year funding relationships are important. Short-term transactional relationships don't lead to as much impact and don't allow time for relationships to develop. Also need to have a longer term view of outcomes.
- Foundation processes are cumbersome and need to be streamlined. Lack of clarity of foundation mandates and granting criteria can lead to wasted time for both applicants and foundation staff.
- Foundations should be more flexible about the way they do things; less rules-based and more relationship-based.
- Difficulty in getting Qualified Donee status with CRA presents obstacles for many Indigenous communities and organizations as foundations can only grant to Qualified Donees. It may be possible to channel funding through a qualified partner, but most do not realize this.
- Lack of funding for Indigenous language programs is a major challenge to cultural survival.
- How do we bring ordinary Canadians on board with Indigenous philanthropy? May be an untapped pool of funding.

**Table Three GRANTING STRATEGIES AND ISSUES**  
**Co-hosts: Pegi Dover & Elisa Levi**

**Actions Identified**

1. As an individual:
  - a. Listen and be open to learning. Sign up for webinars offered by The Circle, PFC, Counselling Foundation.
  - b. Make time for relationship-building with Indigenous organizations and partners, and ask them what they need (instead of presuming you know).
  - c. Drill down on and understand the TRC Calls to Action and the Declaration
  
2. As an organization:
  - a. Be mindful of the inter-connectedness of issues and recognize the need for multi-pronged solutions.
  - b. Provide multi-year funding – outcomes can take many years
  - c. Increase funding for language programs.
  - d. Support Indigenous knowledge-based solutions in combination with Western scientific approaches.
  - e. Make capacity development part of every grant to Indigenous organizations, e.g. include funds for evaluation, and for convening and consultation.
  - f. Streamline processes, and clarify mandates and granting criteria using an Indigenous lens. Review UNDRIP and build Free Prior and Informed Consent into grant processes and require it of all grant recipients. Practice co-creation with Indigenous partners.
  - g. Increase Indigenous representation on staff and Boards. Offer educational and experiential opportunities to further their understanding of Indigenous history and issues.
  
3. As a philanthropic sector:
  - a. Create more funder collaboratives and strengthen existing ones.
  - b. Review Qualified Donee status issue and approach CRA to loosen it and/or develop workarounds for Indigenous organizations.
  - c. Map the Indigenous philanthropy landscape in Canada, and make information available to Indigenous communities and organizations.
  - d. Offer educational sessions on grant criteria and application processes to Indigenous organizations and communities.
  - e. Arrange regional summits of this nature in other parts of Canada.
  - f. Create opportunities for Canadians to contribute funds to Indigenous projects.

**Table Four MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION**  
**Co-hosts: Andrea Cohen Barrack & Jeff Cyr**

**Topic Overview**

How will we know when we are making progress on Reconciliation, and what will success look like? Many funding organizations are developing measurement, and evaluation frameworks as a constructive way to hold themselves accountable for the outcomes they are looking to achieve and inform future activities. How can funders work with indigenous organizations and communities to ensure that they are measuring what matters. Are there existing frameworks and methodologies that could be shared, or do new ones need to be developed?

**Discussion Summary**

- Important to recognize that there will be differing views of success in a project or partnership. Part of success is ensuring a good process with open and respectful dialogue.
- Not certain that there is sufficient capacity in Indigenous organizations to take on further work to measure and evaluate.
- May be challenging even to get to a place where Indigenous communities and organizations (and some foundations) understand and accept that measurement and evaluation are necessary/valuable.
- What is the difference with measuring and evaluating in the Indigenous context? Not necessarily appropriate to use Western research frameworks.
- Already some useful tools available - e.g. Friendship Centres have an impact measurement framework with 16 indicators, Ryerson University has indigenous measurement methodology. Canadian Index of Well-Being may also be useful.
- Would be valuable to have broadly accepted and publicized Indigenous Measurement Framework. Could be co-created based on current tools with shared goals and key performance indicators. Would help both in preventing unnecessary effort, and in understanding systemic progress.
- Test assumptions and do not be afraid to learn from failure. Foundations should be clear about the consequences of "failure" - consequences to Indigenous grant recipients are not necessarily as problematic as might be assumed.
- Process of measuring and evaluating is itself an outcome, and will build capacity over time.
- Need a theory of change to know what to measure, and patience because many of the outcomes will be long-term. Establishing causality can also be an issue (i.e. did intervention lead to the result, or was it other factors?).
- Start simple, test assumptions, use systems thinking.

**Table Four MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION**  
**Co-hosts: Andrea Cohen Barrack & Jeff Cyr**

**Actions Identified**

1. As an individual:
  - a. Continue on a path of learning and understanding, particularly regarding the perspectives of young people.
  - b. Assume that your assumptions may be wrong unless validated, both by Indigenous partners and Western scientific methods.
  - c. Be transparent about this being a “test and learn” journey.
  
2. As an organization:
  - a. Co-create shared goals and measures up front with grant recipients
  - b. Hire Indigenous evaluators
  - c. Start with a modest approach, and get more sophisticated over time. Be cognizant of the limited resources of many Indigenous partners. Provide funding for measurement and evaluation work.
  - d. Use Free Prior and Informed Consent in measurement and evaluation context and take time to explain, educate, listen to and support partners.
  
3. As a philanthropic sector:
  - a. Map funding ecosystem to better enable systemic change
  - b. Co-create culturally-appropriate and standardized measurement framework, methodology, and key performance indicators - this in itself will be an act of reconciliation.
  - c. Collaborate on a mechanism to build the data set over time and make it broadly available (e.g. data can show which interventions or program elements are most successful).
  - d. Consider where best to house this work (The Circle?)
  - e. Organize a follow-up session (which may turn into a working group) to further discuss these collaborative ideas

**Table Five****IMPACT INVESTING**  
**Sara Lyons and Nicole McDonald****Topic Overview**

How can we use impact investing strategies and vehicles to shift capital to support Reconciliation? Are there better ways to connect with investment opportunities, such as private investments, loans, guarantees, and social impact bonds? Could shareholder engagement and activism offer an opportunity to influence corporate behaviour in this area?

**Discussion Summary**

- Growing interest among foundations to increase impact investment activities, i.e. ensure all assets are working for good”.
- Varying levels of impact investing knowledge and experience at the tables. Conversations started with “what is it?” and “why do it?”, and changed to “how do we do it?”
- Need to ensure clarity on impact objectives and how far you are willing to go, e.g. negative screen on investments? positive screen? shareholder activism?
- Are you willing to forego market level return? Willing to invest “patient capital”?
- Fiduciary duty is not incompatible with impact investing. Not necessarily a trade-off between financial and social/environmental returns.
- Impact investing can be applied across multiple asset classes.
- Recognize that there may be competing impacts, e.g. environmental sustainability vs. employment.
- Commit a certain portion of foundation endowment (e.g. 10% to start) to impact investing or mission-related investments, and a portion of that to Indigenous investments?
- Need to improve “pipeline” of investment opportunities and number of investment-ready deals. McConnell Foundation, Community Foundations Canada and Tides Canada, Natural Step are all active in this area.
- Need for a better information flow on Indigenous investment opportunities.
- There are opportunities to enable Indigenous communities to steward their land. These investments yield dual advantages: economic development and environmental sustainability. Examples in the Great Bear Rainforest, Clayoquot Sound in BC and elsewhere.
- Banks are beginning to offer impact investing opportunities, e.g. TD and RBC Green Bonds and socially responsible investment funds. Some include requirements for Indigenous engagement.
- But, how much of a need is there for capital to Indigenous entrepreneurs? Is there already sufficient funding?

**Table Five**      **IMPACT INVESTING**  
**Sara Lyons and Nicole McDonald**

**Actions  
Identified**

1. As an individual:
  - a. Learn about impact investing generally, and Indigenous investment opportunities specifically
  - b. Connect with others active in this space, understand what they are doing and how you can become involved (e.g. McConnell Foundation, Community Foundations Canada, Tides Canada).
  - c. Look at your own personal investments, and consider moving some to impact investments
  
2. As an organization:
  - a. Educate your Board - de-bunk the myth that investment returns will go down with impact investing.
  - b. Incorporate your culture and values into your investment policies by moving endowment assets to impact investments, or at least to responsible investments (screened). Consider starting with 10% of endowment investments.
  - c. Support Indigenous entrepreneur with start-up capital, business expertise, innovation hubs, mentorship.
  - d. Find ways to integrate grants and investments to enable scaling of promising projects or new projects that could become investible. May be ways to use grant money to take the “first loss” before investment.
  - e. Support efforts by SHARE, CCAB to develop and make available frameworks for examining traditional investments through a Reconciliation lens.
  
3. As a philanthropic sector:
  - a. Organize working group to further build out ideas for action and an ecosystem for Indigenous impact investing
  - b. Encourage recognition of social and environmental value aside from financial value, e.g. natural capital accounting.
  - c. Create a framework that could be used to assess investments and develop investment policies through the Reconciliation lens (using tools already available, e.g. SHARE Framework)
  - d. Challenge the top 500 companies in Canada to each invest in one Indigenous community or organization

<b>Table Six PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS</b> <b>Stephen Kakfwi &amp; Hilary Pearson</b>	
<b>Topic Overview</b>	<p>Recent government announcements, including the declared support of the TRC recommendations and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples have set the stage for policy change (and additional funding) for Reconciliation-related initiatives. Participants at this table discussed the priorities of the federal and ontario governments with respect to Reconciliation, the pressing policy issues on the agendas of Indigenous peoples, and how the philanthropic community might play a constructive role in the public policy arena to support Reconciliation.</p>
<b>Discussion Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak from a personal standpoint. Listen, act as a witness, carry the message.</li> <li>• Now have an unprecedented commitment to change and a unique opportunity to push for political action. But governments cannot implement all 94 TRC Calls to Action - need to encourage transparent prioritization.</li> <li>• Governments are not responsible for everything, and we must not be over-reliant on government for solutions. Corporations, civil society and individuals must do their part.</li> <li>• How do we define nation-to-nation relationships and responsibilities?</li> <li>• Need to coordinate responses to TRC Calls to Action for maximum impact e.g. various asks for the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women were coordinated. Can Canadians for a New Partnership help coordinate public policy and government relations initiatives? PFC and The Circle can help coordinate philanthropic sector on relevant issues. More regional gathering like this Summit would help.</li> <li>• Support for Indigenous youth is needed, both for education and to ensure their voices are heard.</li> <li>• Do we focus on creating better understanding among decision-makers, or on building public pressure for change, since policy makers respond to public opinion? Public increasingly interested, but difficult to mobilize.</li> <li>• Priority might be to work with provincial governments that are most willing and committed to change, e.g. Ontario</li> <li>• Use of legal actions has been effective - it is what has led to the TRC and the settlement process.</li> <li>• What is the proper role of foundations? They are allies, not movement builders?</li> <li>• Be impatient for change, but also recognize that it will take a few generations.</li> </ul>

**Table Six**

**PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**  
**Stephen Kakfwi & Hilary Pearson**

**Actions  
Identified**

1. As an individual:
  - a. Listen to understand. Seek out Indigenous teachers and partners. Speak out about support for Reconciliation.
  - b. Read stories of residential school survivors.
  - c. Review TRC Calls to Action, and pick some to work on personally.
  
2. As an organization:
  - a. Provide funding for Indigenous leaders and organizations to convene meetings and travel to participate in events
  - b. Provide more funding for policy and advocacy work, where feasible - don't force Indigenous communities to compete against each other for scarce resources. Fund at the grassroots to assist Indigenous people in advocating for themselves.
  - c. Support initiatives that can help shape public opinion and intensify pressure for change, e.g. Environics survey
  - d. Help keep the TRC Calls to Action top of mind in different communities, e.g. corporations, universities. Ask what they are doing to further Reconciliation.
  
3. As a philanthropic sector:
  - a. Organize multi-sector discussions on Reconciliation, including corporations, civil society, Indigenous peoples.
  - b. Take a pragmatic approach to public policy and government. Consider focusing on Ontario to begin with
  - c. Consider support for National Council on Reconciliation, and a national trust for funding Reconciliation initiatives.
  - d. Call on federal government to respond to TRC Calls to Action and to set clear priorities
  - e. Press for curriculum change to include more - and more accurate - education on Indigenous peoples. Every young person should graduate with knowledge of history and culture of Indigenous peoples, with experiential learning.
  - f. Encourage governments to support projects protecting Indigenous sites and languages, to remove policy barriers to social enterprise in indigenous communities, to train public officials in Indigenous culture and issues.
  - g. Look for ways to coordinate and leverage the public policy and government relations initiatives of organizations pressing for Reconciliation