



Photo Credit: Mallory Chamberlain

TRANS CANADA TRAIL **COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION** 2021-2022 REPORT

MARCH 2022

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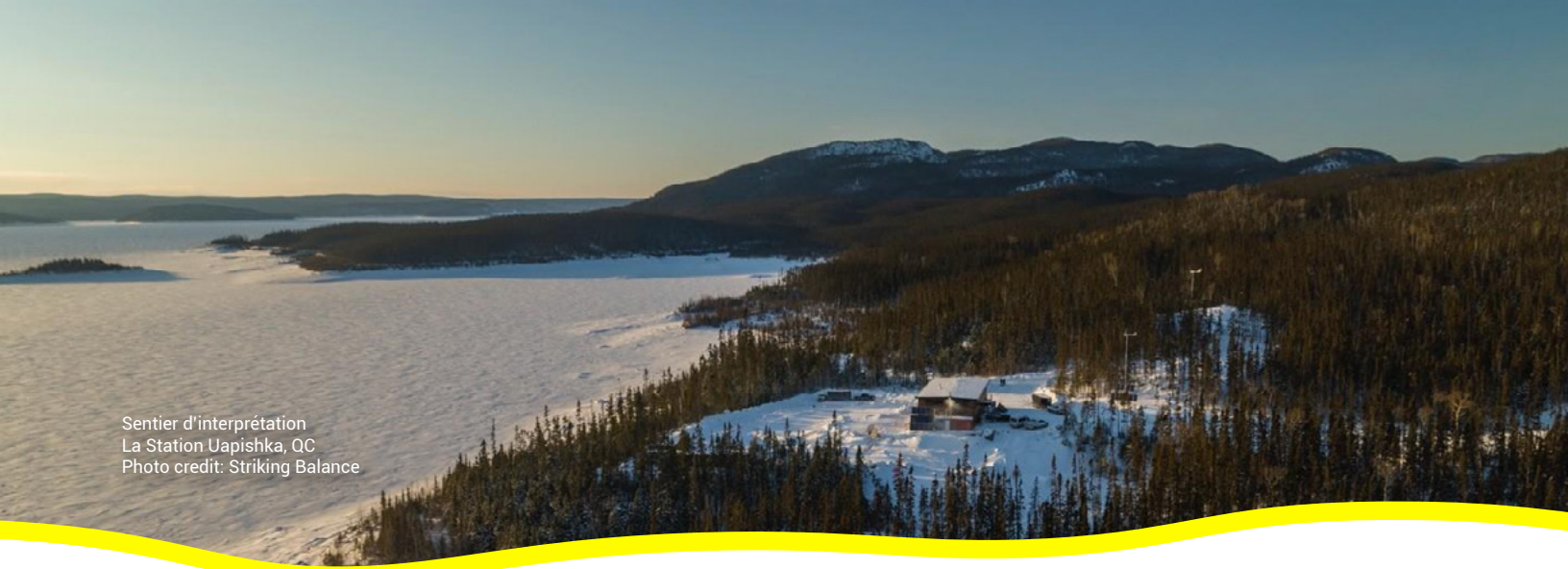
Indigenous youth trail building workshop
Quetico Provincial Park, ON
Photo Credit: Mallory Chamberlain

1. INTRODUCTION

In March 2021, Trans Canada Trail made a commitment to Indigenous reconciliation. This commitment informs our planning, programming, and decision-making processes.

The actions we take will:

- Represent Indigenous peoples and communities on their terms. We will not be an “arbiter” of truth.
- Increase representation of Indigenous people in our organization and encourage local Trail groups to do the same.
- Amplify the voices of Indigenous peoples by supporting Trail initiatives that convey the culture and history of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples and the land they live on; by encouraging and supporting the local Indigenous language on Trail signage; and by including Indigenous voices in Trans Canada Trail materials.



Sentier d'interprétation
La Station Uapishka, QC
Photo credit: Striking Balance

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The recognition of territory shows respect for Indigenous peoples.

It testifies to their presence, both historical and current, and ensures a sharing of knowledge between current and future generations. This recognition and respect are crucial to the establishment and maintenance of healthy and reciprocal relationships, and contributes to reconciliation, a process to which Trans Canada Trail is committed. While acknowledging traditional territory is highly desirable, it is only the beginning of the process that is needed to cultivate strong relations with First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Trans Canada Trail acknowledges that:

- The Trans Canada Trail is situated on the traditional territory of First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples from coast to coast to coast. Trans Canada Trail also acknowledges that the Trans Canada Trail includes land and water routes that were created and used, both historically and presently, by Indigenous peoples as seasonal travel and trade routes
- Our main office is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation, part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We recognize the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation as the custodians of the lands and waters of Tiohtiá:ke (Montreal), which has long been a gathering place for diverse First Nations, including Algonquin-Anishinaabe, Atikamekw and Huron-Wendat. We are thankful that we are able to create, collaborate, play and work here. We support community efforts to sustain a relationship with Indigenous peoples based on respect, dignity, trust and cooperation, in the process of advancing truth and reconciliation

To demonstrate our commitment:

- We support Indigenous leadership as they work on Trail development projects on traditional territories
- We encourage Trail groups to develop project partnerships with Indigenous communities, and to recognize and honour First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples by acknowledging the traditional territories on which the Trail project is taking place
- We have established an Indigenous Advisory Committee comprised of individuals from Indigenous communities to provide guidance and advice to Trans Canada Trail as it relates to Indigenous communities and culture



Medicine Garden, Skye River Trail
We'koqma'q First Nation, NS
Photo Credit Susan Googoo

3. 2021-2022 REPORT

Calls to Action

Trans Canada Trail's Commitment to Indigenous Reconciliation was developed based on the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Action. Although these Calls to Action are directed to government, they can provide focus and direction to all organizations in changing policies and programs, and participating in reconciliation.

This Report will be shared with Trans Canada Trail's Board, Trail Projects Committee, and Indigenous Advisory Committee. Because some actions undertaken by Trans Canada Trail may address more Calls to Action than originally included in the Commitment to Reconciliation, the Advisory Committee will reconsider the Commitment to Indigenous Reconciliation and provide feedback based on this report.

Below are the activities, organized by Call to Action, undertaken by Trans Canada Trail between April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. This report shows only Trans Canada Trail's progress for the year. Our commitment to reconciliation is ongoing and our actions will continue year after year.





Language and Culture

Call to Action 14: We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:

- 14 (i) Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
- 14 (iv) The preservation, revitalization and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.



Figure 1: Carver Darren Yelton restoring the Squamish First Nation pavilion, North Vancouver
(Photo credit: Paul Joseph)

Actions Undertaken

Squamish Nation Marker Revitalization (BC) – Revitalization of totem poles carved by Squamish carver Darren Yelton as part of the Trans Canada Trail pavilion in North Vancouver.

Mississauga First Nation Reconciliation Signage (ON) – This new trail (see next section) will feature two trailheads and six interpretive panels on Indigenous culture, history, flora, fauna and points of interest.

Goat Island Interpretive Panels (NS) – Eskasoni First Nation created a new interpretive panel for Goat Island.

Squamish Interpretive Signage (BC) – Ten interpretive signs are being designed and installed along the Sea to Sky Trail to share the history and culture of the local Indigenous communities.

Tuktoyaktuk Trailhead (NWT) – Trailhead will include information in Inuvialuktun, English and French.

Meeting Hub and Interpretive Signage (MB) – Interpretive signs will educate users about the Anishinaabe, the Sacred Laws of the People of the Land, Forest Bathing, and geology.

Language and Culture (continued)

Rosburn Subdivision Interpretive Signage (MB) – Waywayseecappo First Nation and Rosburn Subdivision are working together to create and install interpretive signs along the Trail.



Figure 2: Trailhead signage created by Waywayseecappo First Nation and Rosburn Subdivision, Manitoba

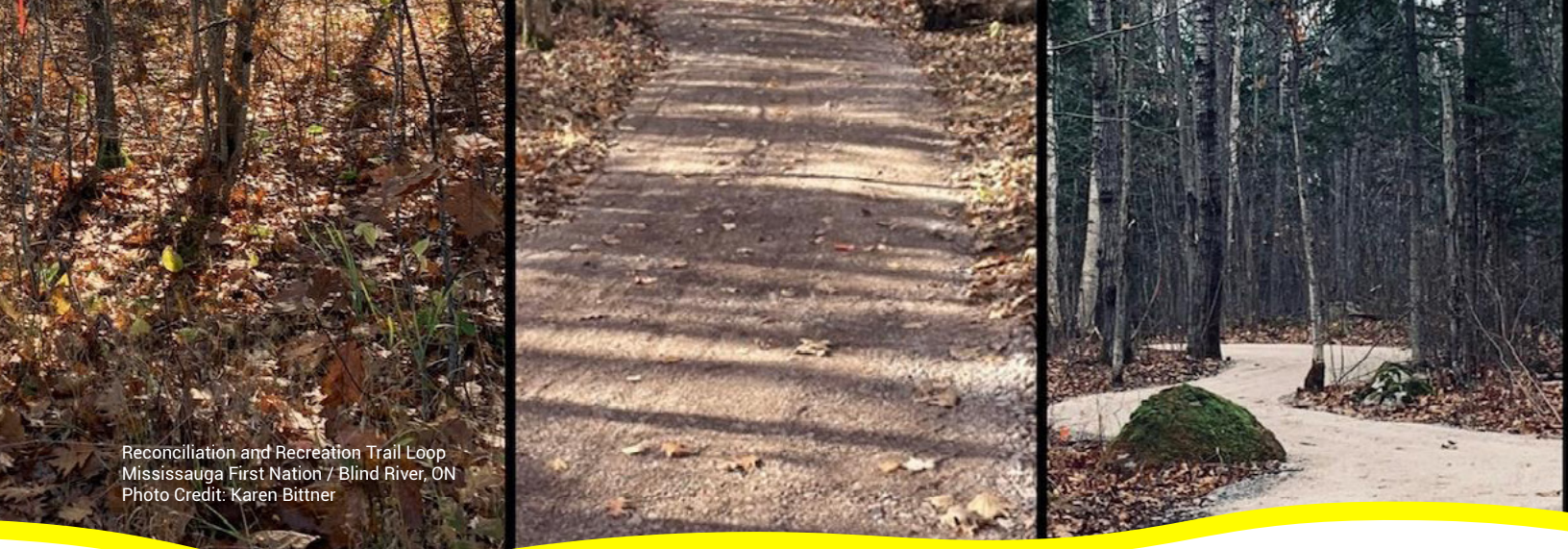
Wanuskewin Heritage Park Bike Access Signage (SK) – This project is being planned to support the creation of new signage for cyclists on the Wanuskewin lands.

DeCew House Heritage Park Signage (ON) – Interpretive signage for the First Nations Peace Monument to be presented in Mohawk, English and French, and will include a land acknowledgement, peace monument interpretation and local First Nation history.

Peterborough Wayfinding (ON) – City of Peterborough will be installing Trans Canada Trail wayfinders in Cree, English and French in spring 2022.

Exploits Mikmaq (NL) – Ten new Trail markers are planned in collaboration with local elders to educate trail users about Indigenous history and culture relevant to the area of each sign.

Itijjagial Trail (NU) – Trans Canada Trail wayfinding and information signs were created in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French.



Reconciliation and Recreation Trail Loop
Mississauga First Nation / Blind River, ON
Photo Credit: Karen Bittner

Sport and Reconciliation

Call to Action 89: We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.

Call to Action 90: We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples



Figure 3: Reconciliation and Recreation Trail Loop,
Mississauga First Nation and Blind River.
(Photo credit: Karen Bittner)

Actions Undertaken

Mississauga First Nation Reconciliation

Loop (ON) – This one-km loop trail will feature sites of culture, history, flora, fauna and points of interest.

Many Nations Tourism Corridor (SK) – Led by Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation, this new trail will align with the historic Carlton Trail, and will include an Indigenous tourism experience.

Air Ronge Heritage Trail (SK) – Trans Canada Trail supported a pre-construction trail study through a partnership between the community of Air Ronge and Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

Goat Island Water Access (NS) – Eskasoni First Nation completed trail work and installed infrastructure at a water access point.

Sport and Reconciliation (continued)

Speech Act Project (MB) – An Indigenous architect, Ryan Gorrie, is designing a new art and seating installation with the themes of language and transmission along the North Winnipeg Parkway.

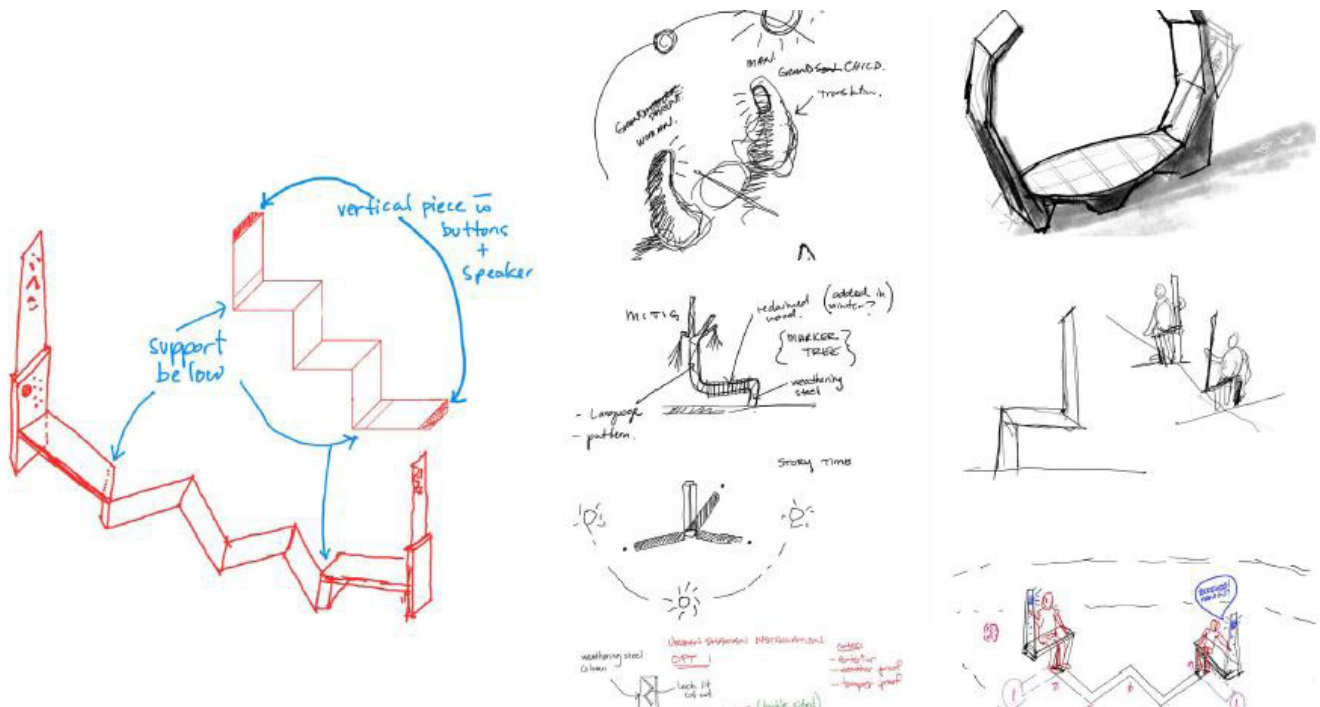


Figure 4: Initial sketches of the Speech Act Project

Ojibway Park Nature Trail (ON) – Garden River First Nation is expanding the existing nature trail to include an elevated boardwalk and bridges throughout the ecologically sensitive areas.

Stories of Pawgwasheeng Medicine Trail (ON) – Pays Plat First Nation is creating an interpretive trail that will feature traditional medicinal plant use.

Station Uapishka (QC) – This new trail, located in a UNESCO biosphere reserve, will feature interpretation on Innu culture and scientific research.

Skye River Trail Improvements (NS) – The We'koqma'q First Nation is undertaking improvements to optimize their water access point on the Bras d'Or Lake water route.

Wagmatcook Access Point (NS) – Wagmatcook First Nation is planning a new trail and water access point in the community.



Indigenous youth trail building workshop
Lubicon Lake, AB
Photo Credit: Ramzey Zallum

Youth Programs (new addition)

***Call to Action 66:** We call upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.*

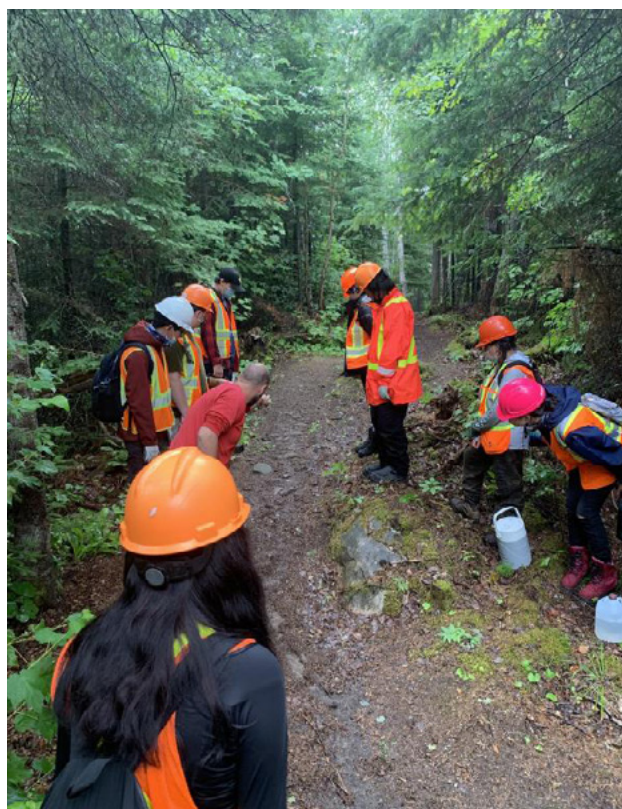


Figure 5: Indigenous youth trail building workshop, Quetico Provincial Park. (Photo credit: Mallory Chamberlain)

Actions Undertaken

Trail Crew Training was developed for the Outland Youth Employment Program, an award-winning land-based education program for Indigenous youth. There are six camps located in BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario, and Trans Canada Trail designed and instructed a five-day training at each camp. A total of 107 Indigenous youth participated, and received the Trail Crew Certificate. Those in Ontario also received the Ontario Parks Association Trail Specialist Certificate.

In 2022, OYEP will be adding an additional camp in BC and one in Quebec, and Trans Canada Trail is thrilled to offer Trail Crew Training in those locations.

Expanded Trail Crew Training

Trans Canada Trail will be offering Trail Crew Training to Indigenous youth in provinces and territories not covered by OYEP in the 2022 and 2023 seasons.



Indigenous youth trail building workshop
Quetico Provincial Park, ON
Photo Credit: Mallory Chamberlain


Professional Development and Training

***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 training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.*

Actions Undertaken

Trans Canada Trail staff have participated in a variety of training opportunities related to Indigenous history, culture, and reconciliation. Examples include the following:

- **Indigenous Canada** (University of Alberta) explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective.
- **4 Seasons of Reconciliation** (First Nations University of Canada) is a 10-module course on Truth and Reconciliation.
- **The Path: Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation** (NVision Insight Group).
- **Webinar:** Anona Kampe, Indigenous land-based educator.
- **Truth and Reconciliation Talking Circle** hosted by UNBC.
- **Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc** – Drum for the Children.



Sentier d'interprétation
La Station Uapishka, QC
Photo Credit: Station Uapishka

Business and Reconciliation

***Calls to Action 92:** We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.*

Actions Undertaken

DEIA Inclusion Review – Consultant retained to undertake an internal review on inclusion and to develop recommendations.

Youth Employment in the Trail Sector – 12% of the youth employed through Trans Canada Trail's federally-funded youth employment program were Indigenous. Organizations received subsidies to create jobs for youth in the trail sector.

Indigenous Mentorship Program – Trans Canada Trail staff participated as a mentor to an Indigenous youth, as part of the Project Learning Tree Canada Indigenous Mentorship Program.

Land Acknowledgements – Trail groups creating Trans Canada Trail-funded trailheads are asked to include a land acknowledgment on the sign.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Trans Canada Trail recognized publicly the tragic legacy of residential schools, and recommitted to building and sustaining meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Trans Canada Trail also engaged in staff training and encouraged all staff to attend a public event (September 30, 2021).

National Indigenous Peoples Day – Trans Canada Trail recognized publicly that the Trail is situated on traditional territories of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples, and the historical and current significance of sections of the Trail used as seasonal travel and trade routes (June 21, 2021).

Business and Reconciliation (continued)

OYEP Partnership – Trans Canada Trail announced its partnership with Outland Youth Employment Program to create an innovating trail building education opportunity for Indigenous youth, and continued to share news and photos (June 18, 2021).

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation – Trans Canada Trail stood publicly in solidarity and grief with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, and honoured and remembered the 215 children whose remains were confirmed (June 3, 2021).

Indigenous Heritage on the Trail – Trans Canada Trail amplified the Indigenous value of connecting ourselves to the natural world, and publicly shared Trail sections that connect with Indigenous heritage (April 28, 2021).

Indigenous Advisory Committee – Two meetings were held in 2021, to collect thoughts and ideas on how the Trail can be used to amplify the voices of survivors of former residential schools, creating an Indigenous grant stream, and interpretive signage.

Planning and Decision-making – Trans Canada Trail planning and decision-making is guided by the Commitment to Indigenous Reconciliation.



Figure 6: Wayfinders along Nunavut's Itijjagial Trail in English, French, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun