UNDRIP & TRC Calls to Action: How The SAS is Responding

Articles Pertaining to Archaeology in UNDRIP

Article	Article Text
5	Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the State.
8.1	Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
11.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
11.2	States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.
12.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
12.2	States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with Indigenous peoples concerned.
13.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
13.2	States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that Indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.
15.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
25	Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

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Article	Article Text
26.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories, and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
26.2	Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories, and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
26.3	States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.
27	States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.
28.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair, and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories, and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
28.2	Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.
29.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
31.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
31.2	In conjunction with Indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.
37.1	Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

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TRC Calls to Action Pertaining to Archaeology

Call Number	Text	How The SAS Can Respond
10.3	Developing Culturally appropriate curricula	Educational resources reflect Indigenous history. Products (e.g., Trappers and Traders, POV) incorporate Indigenous languages and viewpoints
12	We call on the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families	Educational resources reflect Indigenous history.
13	We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights	Inclusion of Indigenous languages in educational resources (Trappers and Traders, Kiwehtinohk)
43	We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.	Board formally adopted UNDRIP in 2018 and reaffirmed in 2026
44	We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Working on implementing this across the Society operationally and at the governance level
45.1	Repudiate concepts used to Justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius	Many programs and services (e.g., field schools, outreach, Annual Gathering) showcases Indigenous history in Saskatchewan (and Canada) since time immemorial
45.2	Adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.	Board formally adopted UNDRIP in 2018 and reaffirmed in 2026
45.3	Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.	Land acknowledgements (prominently displayed, voiced). Recognition of treaty territories we live and work on. Maintaining and growing relationships on a regular basis.
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.	Many programs and services (e.g., field schools, outreach, Annual Gathering) showcases Indigenous history in Saskatchewan (and Canada) since time immemorial. Policies respect Indigenous sovereignty.

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TRC Calls to Action Pertaining to Archaeology

Call Number	Text	How The SAS Can Respond
62	We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to: i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.	Educational resources reflect Indigenous history.
63.1	Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.	Educational resources reflect Indigenous history.
63.2	Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.	Educational resources reflect Indigenous history. Professional development opportunities on archaeological history available to teachers in Saskatchewan.
66	We call upon the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.	Ongoing programming (e.g., ArchaeoCaravan) to culture and land-based learning camps.
67	We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to make recommendations	Work with Indigenous individuals, communities and organizations to assist with collections, information sharing, etc. New operational policies re: collections and Indigenous sovereignty and repatriation
72	We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.	Support and assistance with information requests to relevant groups
73	We call upon the federal government to work with churches, Aboriginal communities, and former residential school students to establish and maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries, including, where possible, plot maps showing the location of deceased residential school children.	Support and assistance with information requests to relevant groups

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TRC Calls to Action Pertaining to Archaeology

Call Number	Text	How The SAS Can Respond
74	We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested.	Support and assistance with information requests to relevant groups
75	We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing 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.	Support and assistance with information requests to relevant groups
76	We call upon the parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating, and protecting residential school cemeteries to adopt strategies in accordance with the following principles: i. The Aboriginal community most affected shall lead the development of such strategies. ii. Information shall be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers in the development of such strategies. iii. Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site.	Support and assistance with information requests to relevant groups
79.2	Revising the policies, criteria and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history;	Work with Indigenous individuals, communities and organizations to assist with collections, information sharing, etc.
79.3	Developing and implementing a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history.	Operational repatriation/rematriation policy on archaeological heritage
83	We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.	Ongoing work and relationships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists in upcoming publications, services, products, etc.

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TRC Calls to Action Pertaining to Archaeology

Call Number	Text	How The SAS Can Respond
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.	Board formally adopted UNDRIP in 2018 and reaffirmed in 2026
92.1	Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.	Policies and procedures that respect this now in place (2026).
92.2	Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects	Consistent history of hiring individuals who identify as Indigenous
92.3	Provide 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 will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.	Board, staff and members have opportunities (board and staff required) to take this type of training.

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