

Land Acknowledgement

We, the Early Childhood Collaborative Research Centre (ECCRC) team, acknowledge that the ECCRC at Mount Saint Vincent University is in Kijipuktuk, part of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded ancestral territory which remains the homeland of the Mi'kmaq Nation. This territory is covered by the Covenant Chain of Treaties of Peace and Friendship signed between 1725 and 1779. These treaties are affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada and recognize Aboriginal Title.

Our current team members include multi-generational and recent settlers with diverse cultural identities. We all recognize our role in continuously upholding the treaties through relationships of peace and friendship through actions outlined below. As a team, we dedicate time to pay respect to the knowledge embedded in the Indigenous custodians of the lands and waters and to the Elders, past, present, and future.

Indigenous children are more likely to experience intergenerational trauma as a result of the legacy of colonialism and residential schools. We recognize that we are a part of Mount Saint Vincent University, established by the Sisters of Charity. Mount Saint Vincent University has apologized for its role in residential schools through the Sisters of Charity who supported both the Shubenacadie and Cranbrook Residential Schools. It is necessary for us to continue to reflect on our past, identify our privilege as settlers who have benefited from colonialism, and consider how we can move toward reconciliation.

Continuous Learning and Action

At the ECCRC, we recognize that we still have much action to take toward truth and reconciliation. As a team, we plan to follow the [6 Actions of ReconciliACTION](#) from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. This includes:

- **Learn** and **understand** the history by reading, listening, participating, and engaging in Indigenous knowledge and storytelling through regular team meetings, special events, and workshops (e.g., Participating in the Blanket exercise, Wholistic Well-being Workshops, Indigenous Guest speakers and books).
- **Explore** by becoming familiar with the TRC's Calls to Action #5, 12, 62 (i), 62.2 (ii) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (3, 19, 28, 37).
 - o (TRC) 5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.
 - o (TRC) 12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.
 - o (TRC) 62. (i). We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to: 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.

- (TRC) 62. (ii). Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.
- (UN) 3. Best interests of the child
- (UN) 19. Protection from violence
- (UN) 28. Access to education
- (UN) 37. Children in detention
- **Recognize** the rich contribution through amplifying Indigenous knowledges and stories through our research partnerships (e.g., highlighting Indigenous storytellers in early childhood, welcoming Elders to share their knowledge at our events).
- **Take action** by partnering with Indigenous governance and local Mi'kmaw communities (e.g., with Sipekne'katik First Nation with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey,). We acknowledge our power and privilege as academics in our collaborations and our role to demand further action to support the well-being of Indigenous children. We specifically advocate for high-quality, inclusive, and culturally responsive early childhood environments for Indigenous children.
- **Teach others** by uplifting and amplifying Indigenous knowledges and stories through our research, events, and social media.

As we continue to learn about the historical and current colonial systems of violence which contribute to the violence and harm perpetuated against Indigenous people—we will continue to reflect, discuss, implement, and share our actions toward truth and reconciliation.

Sincerely,

The ECCRC Team