



British Columbia Court of Appeal Reconciliation Framework: A Commitment to Advancing Truth & Reconciliation

The justice system has too often failed Indigenous people and peoples in Canada. The Court of Appeal is committed to advancing truth and reconciliation so that the justice system better serves Indigenous people.

The Court of Appeal understands reconciliation to be an *ongoing process* aimed at:



Understanding, acknowledging, and addressing the truth of the adverse experiences of Indigenous people within the justice system and Canadian society.



Learning about Indigenous peoples, cultures, traditions, values, and concepts of justice, and the impact colonization has had on all of these.



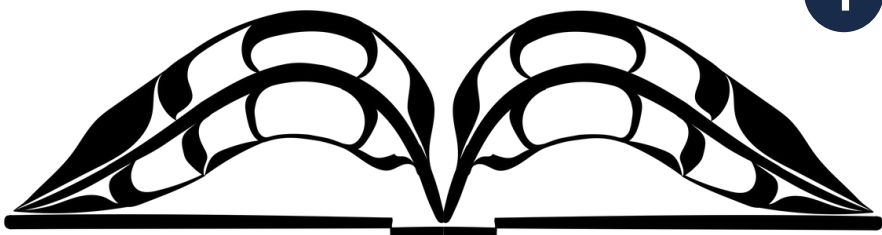
Ensuring the justice system is inclusive, responsive, and respectful to all.



Building and maintaining trust in the justice system.

Consistent with the Canadian Judicial Council's Ethical Principles for Judges,

the Court of Appeal is committed to *advancing reconciliation* in all its work, including through:

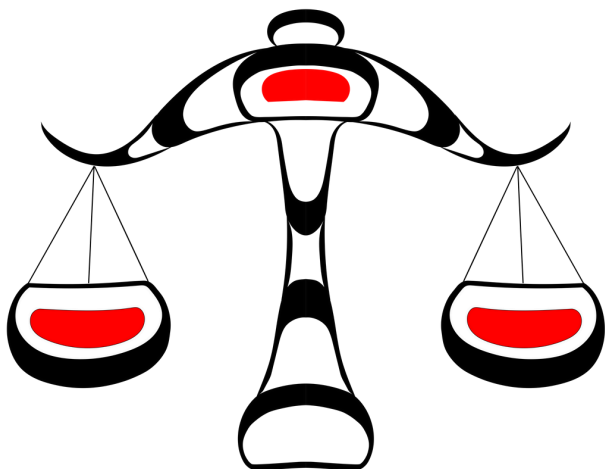


1 Education

Education about historical wrongs, cultural context, the experiences of Indigenous people in the justice system, and other educational priorities identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

2 Relationship-building

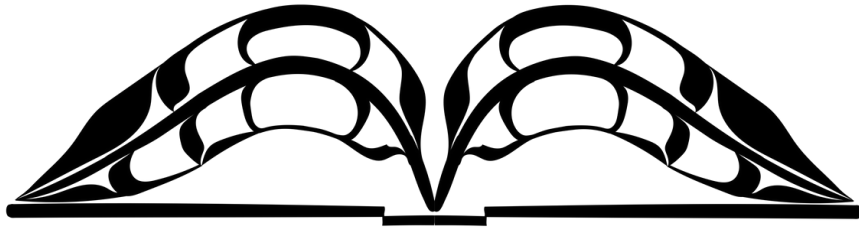
Relationship-building between the Court of Appeal and Indigenous communities through outreach, listening, and dialogue.



3 Access to Justice

Improving access to justice through inclusivity, inviting input on Indigenous practices, welcoming symbols, and eliminating barriers.

ACTION PLAN



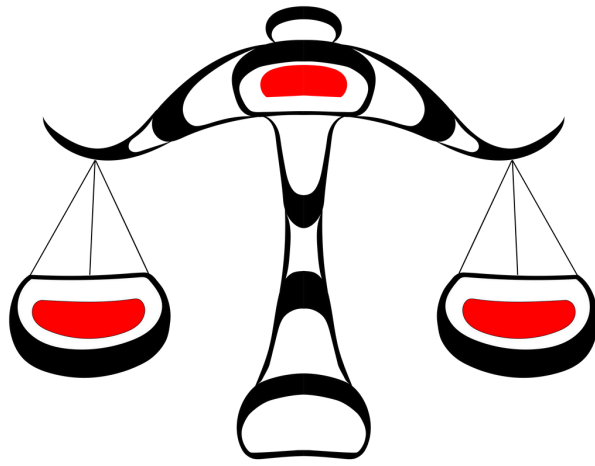
EDUCATION

- Offer ongoing education to judges on Indigenous history, cultural context, bias, Indigenous experiences, trauma, and legal aspects of reconciliation, including case law, Constitutional law, Aboriginal and Treaty rights, Indigenous-Crown relations, UNDRIP, and Indigenous legal orders.
- Build and maintain a library of resources addressing these topics.
- Integrate Indigenous content into educational programming on other areas of the law and on skills development.
- Provide education to judicial staff on history, cultural context, Indigenous experiences, inclusivity, and trauma-informed practices.



RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

- Build internal understanding of reconciliation as an ongoing process centred primarily on relationships.
- Conduct targeted outreach to build trust and understanding with a focus on listening.
- Identify opportunities to hear directly about problems and barriers faced by Indigenous people.
- Consider opportunities for the Court to sit in or visit communities around the province.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Cultivate a culture of openness, cultural humility, and welcoming.
- Examine hiring practices, e.g. recruitment of Indigenous staff.
- Adopt trauma-informed practices and address unconscious bias in order to best support Indigenous people engaging with the Court.
- Invite input on culturally appropriate roles for practices, languages, stories, Elders, items, symbols, etc. within Court spaces and procedures.

The Court of Appeal thanks and acknowledges Reconciliation Canada, the BC First Nations Justice Council, and the other organizations and individuals who have generously shared their knowledge and advice about reconciliation.

The designs in this document were created by artist Erik Prytula.
Please see the artist's statement and biography [here](#).