

Media release

**BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BC Social Workers welcome Truth and Reconciliation Report

Vancouver, BC - Social workers in British Columbia welcomed the long-awaited report from Justice Murray Sinclair and will continue advocacy efforts to ensure that the provincial and federal governments implement the commission's recommendations.

"This has been a very long and painful process for the almost 7,000 witnesses that spoke of their time at the residential schools and the effect on them and their families" said Michael Crawford, BCASW president. "Justice Sinclair has properly referred to our collective historical actions as 'cultural genocide' and it is our collective responsibility to work with Indigenous peoples toward reconciliation."

More than half of all children in the care of British Columbia's child welfare system are Aboriginal although the Aboriginal population Canada wide is 4.3% according to census 2011. In spite of many promises, funding for housing, education, health, and sanitation remains appallingly inadequate for families.

"The Commission's recommendations need to be implemented and governments need to take this situation seriously" said Carol Ross, BCASW Board Member and chair of the Child Welfare Committee. "Canada apologized in 2008 however since then we have seen cutbacks to funding and an indifference to the conditions Indigenous people live in and the barriers they face."

BCASW commits to engaging and consulting with Indigenous peoples and communities on the process of reconciliation and healing.

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