



**December 14, 2021**

## **King's holds Participatory Reading of TRC Calls to Action**

London, ON - On the sixth anniversary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada being released, King's Social Justice and Peace Studies (SJPS) department will be hosting a Participatory Reading of the TRC Calls to Action on December 15, 2021.

94 volunteer members of the community will be participating, each one will read one of the calls to action. Listeners are invited to register to be part of the event, to be held via a webinar. (See link below)

The event has been organized by members of the King's SJPS department, including:

- Carla Dew – 3<sup>rd</sup> year, SJPS. Mature student. Vice-President of SJPS Club.
- Laura Crowe – 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Political Science and SJPS. Student faculty rep for King's University College Students' Council (SJPS), SJPS Club member.
- Professor Allyson Larkin, Chair SJPS Department
- Shawna Lewkowitz, Lecturer and Community-Based Learning Coordinator
- Christal Malone, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, SJPS. Mature student. Instructor at Fanshawe College Doula Studies Program.
- Jennifer Surerus, SJPS Alumni. Instructor at Fanshawe College Doula Studies Program. Working towards MSW at York University.

Carla Dew proposed the event as part of an independent study project after the July 1<sup>st</sup> Turtle Island Healing Walk, held in London, Ontario. In rereading the TRC: Calls to Action for the independent study, Dew focused on specific Calls addressing post-secondary institutions and publicly funded denominational schools. She also focused her research on the concept of truth-seeking, a key idea to the process of decolonization and reconciliation. Dew learned about a similar event, held by the University of British Columbia.

Members of the community participating include:

- Dr. David Malloy, King's President
- Dr. Gillian Balfour, King's Vice-President and Academic Dean
- Lindsay Mathysen, MP for London-Fanshawe
- Terence Kernaghan, MPP for London North-Centre
- Peggy Sattler, MPP for London West
- Teresa Armstrong, MPP for London-Fanshawe
- Arielle Kayabaga, MPP for London West
- Josh Morgan, London City Councillor for Ward 7
- Mariam Hamou, London City Councillor for Ward 6
- Scott Courtice, London InterCommunity Health Care (Executive Director)

- Yu^ta lo:sli yo' (Lisa) Jackson, Indigenous Resource Consultant for London Health Science Centre
- Céline Poirier, Indigenous Lead at École élémentaire catholique Saint-Jean-de-Brébeuf
- Jeff Hanks, Co-organizer of London Regional Social Forum

There will also be other local and area politicians, professors and students from King's University College, Western University, Huron University College, Brescia University and Fanshawe College and Indigenous individuals from various First Nations (Oneida, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Six Nations).

**Quotes:**

“There are many people who want to do something but are paralyzed and immobile from not knowing what to do. Hearing and learning about the unmarked graves at Residential schools has ignited an anger and a rage inside of many Canadians. I believe that when people hear about the participatory reading event, it provides movement and hope towards reconciliation.” - Carla Dew

“I decided that organizing and hosting a similar event would be a perfect way to conclude my independent study, providing a tangible way for myself and other non-Indigenous people to move forward and deepen our reconciliation education and journey.” - Carla Dew

**Event Information:**

Participatory Reading of the TRC Calls to Action

December 15, 2021 – 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. EST

Hosted by King's University College Social Justice and Peace Studies Department

Held via Zoom

ASL Interpretation provided

Listeners are invited to register to be part of the event.

**About King's University College**

King's is a public Catholic University College that provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King's is academically affiliated with Western University, and King's graduates receive a Western University degree. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centred on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person.

**For more information, please contact:**

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