

[Skip to content](#) | [High contrast](#)Search for:

- [News](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Your Practice](#)
- [Paralegal Update](#)
- [Français](#)
- [Treasurer's Blog](#)

[Home](#) / [Treasurer's Blog](#) / Taking action for reconciliation

Taking action for reconciliation

- [Equity](#)
- [First Nations](#)
- [Treasurer](#)

Posted: 09/17/2015 **by:** Janet Minor

- Français
- English



Last June, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) released its profoundly important [report](#) with recommendations for charting the future of the reconciliation process.

Last week, I, and over 370 others, were fortunate to have the opportunity to hear and learn more about the path to reconciliation from TRC Commissioner Dr. Marie Wilson and residential school survivor Garnet Angeconeb, who participated in a dialogue with Honorary Witness Shelagh Rogers. We were also honoured by remarks from Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day.

We heard of the injustices of the past and the hope for the future. The conversation was rich with insight but I noted two recurring themes — that we must acknowledge our collective history to build a stronger country, and we must do this together through open and respectful dialogue.

For many years now, the Law Society has worked with First Nation, Métis and Inuit lawyers and paralegals to promote diversity and equity in the legal professions.

I have made it a priority under my term as Treasurer to engage directly with First Nation, Métis and Inuit leaders and citizens, in order to learn more about their culture and to build a better understanding of the justice barriers they face.

Indeed, earlier this month I was thrilled to be invited to the M'Chigeeng First Nation Pow Wow on beautiful Manitoulin Island.

That Pow Wow and last week's [event](#) are an important part of my, and the Law Society's, ongoing education. I am grateful to benchers Julian Falconer and Dianne Corbiere, as well as former bencher Susan Hare, for their leadership and guidance in this area.

Last week, Dr. Wilson challenged us to look at the TRC's 94 calls to action and identify what role we are going to play in the reconciliation process. The Law Society is committed to taking action, I urge all lawyers and paralegals to do the same.

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