A Message from our President

Today, college staff, faculty, and students are coming together on Truth & Reconciliation Day to acknowledge the true traumatic legacy of residential schools on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children, families, and communities. It also marks our need to continue the global discussion on creating bridges with each other for reconciliation.

The recent discoveries of hundreds of unmarked graves at the sites of former residentials schools across Canada has finally awoken the nation to the calls for truth & reconciliation that have been resounding for decades/generations. The incredible harm that has been done to First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities has also profoundly been felt across Ontario’s colleges. There is real anger, frustration, and hurt felt amongst students, staff, and faculty, and it is clear that Canada still has a long way to go.

We must do better.

Ontario’s college student associations are committed to doing everything in their power to ensure that the nation fulfills the calls to action put forward by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada, across our campuses and in our communities.

While these outcomes will take time to develop, there is a strong, shared commitment for the future. Our college student associations will continue to work with our Indigenous partners to ensure that colleges are culturally and socially inclusive places for all students. CSA will continue to advocate for all of Ontario’s college students during this turbulent time. We must come together to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in their post-secondary studies. We will continue to call on our membership to continue open discussion on truth and reconciliation across all platforms.

To Ontario’s First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, I want you to know that CSA is here for you, and that we will support your voice and advocate for your rights.

Sincerely,

Eli Ridder President

College Student Alliance

