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June 21<sup>st</sup> is National Indigenous People's Day which recognizes and celebrates First Nations, Metis and Inuit people across Canada. June is also recognized as Indigenous History Month.

The APUS Executive Committee would like to express our gratitude and solidarity to the First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities that have shared their knowledge, scholarship, labour, resources, activism and solidarity with us. We feel that it is important to make a public re-commitment to access to education for all First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. This includes supporting the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and now, supporting the recommendations found in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)[1] which was released earlier this month.

We echo the Call for Educators that

“all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions and education authorities educate and provide awareness to the public about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and about the issues and root causes of violence they experience. All curriculum development and programming should be done in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, especially Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Such education and awareness must include historical and current truths about the genocide against Indigenous Peoples through state laws, policies, and colonial practices. It should include, but not be limited to, teaching Indigenous history, law, and practices from Indigenous perspectives and the use of *Their Voices Will Guide Us* with children and youth.”

The colonization of Turtle Island has been an ongoing process that succeeds because as citizens or visitors to Canada, we are not taught to see ourselves in relation with Indigenous People. [Re]conciliation cannot be done without actively rebuilding the relationships destroyed through colonization. If we want to create a future that can lay the past to rest, then we must be willing to take action.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of learning resources available to them, such as attending a teach-in at U of T's First Nations House, taking on the #Next150 Challenge or learning from the work of Indigenous scholars, artists and other knowledge keepers.

In solidarity,

The APUS Executive Committee

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[1] The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was released June 3rd 2019. Both the [Executive Summary](#) and [Volumes 1 and 2](#) of the report are available online.