

Indigenous Services Canada

Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

Call to Action #17

Reclaiming Names



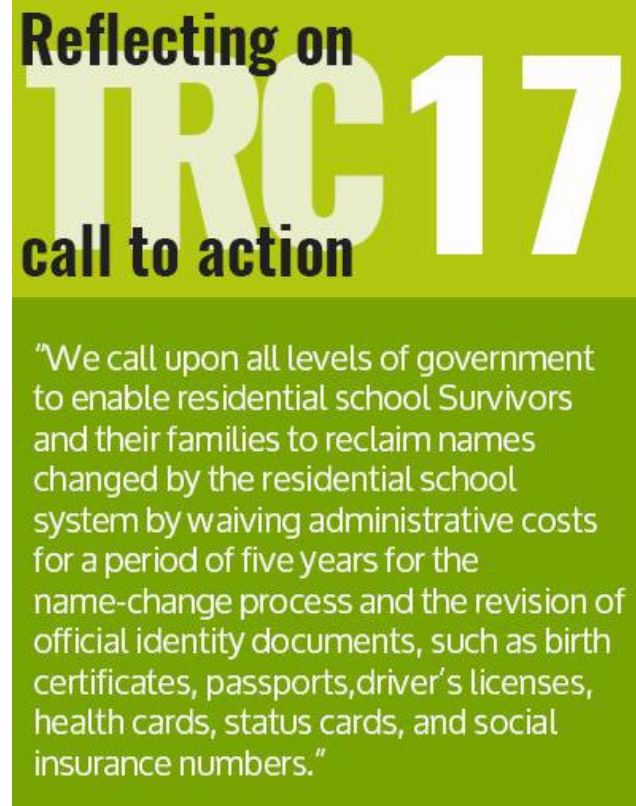
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Contents

- Background
- Ministerial commitment
- Progress to date & realities
- Shared Challenge
- Next steps
- Discussion Questions



Background

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC): Calls to Action is a final report of the shared experiences and intergenerational impacts to residential school survivors and their families.
- The TRC report has 94 recommendations, or 'Calls to Action' to address the schools' legacy and to advance reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.
- The Calls to Action are directed at:
 - ☐ federal, provincial, municipal and Indigenous governments
 - ☐ Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities
 - ☐ post-secondary institutions
 - ☐ health care institutions
 - ☐ faith-based institutions
 - ☐ media organizations
 - ☐ members of the corporate sector



Ministerial Commitments

- Canada announced that, effective June 14, 2021, Indigenous peoples, residential school survivors and their families can reclaim their Indigenous names, as written, on passports and other government-issued documents.
- Then Ministers Mendicino (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship), Bennett (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs) and Miller (Indigenous Services) highlighted this announcement as a critical step in redressing Canada's colonial legacy and restoring dignity and pride in Indigenous names and Indigenous naming practices.



Progress to Date and Realities

- Indigenous Services Canada is responsible for:
 - ☐ managing the Indian Registration System (IRS), the authoritative source for recording the names of individuals registered under the *Indian Act* and First Nations' names
 - ☐ the issuance of the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS), also known as a secure status card
- Official identity documents required to change 'family/given name' fields on SCIS. Without them, reclaimed names can only appear in 'alias' field.
 - ☐ family/given names are recorded in IRS based on foundational evidence of identity (i.e. birth certificate). **To display a reclaimed name as family/given name, a document that confirms the reclaimed name is required.**
 - ☐ Certain P/Ts have formal CTA#17 policies, offering birth certificates with reclaimed names, at no cost, for a period of time or indefinitely.



SCIS Card

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CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS
CERTIFICAT DE STATUT INDIEN

Registration no./Numéro d'inscription: **9997001801**

Family Name/Nom de famille: **JOHNSON**

Given Names/Prénoms: **LOUISE**

Alias/Nom d'emprunt: **ANNE**

Date of Birth/Date de naissance: **1980/01/13**

Gender/Genre: **X**

Date of Issue/Date de délivrance: **2021/01/03**

Renew Before/Renouveler avant: **2031/01/13**

Registry Group no. and Name/N° du groupe de registre et nom: **3456 - BAND NAME**

Louise Johnson

9997001801 1980 01 13 F

Family Name

Given Name

Alias



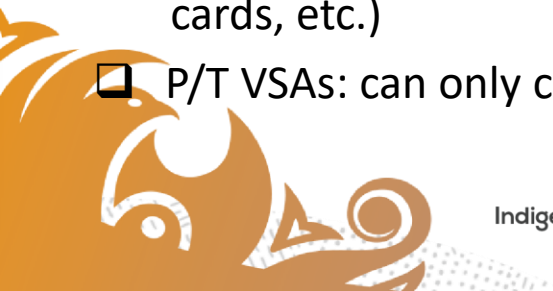
Shared Challenge

Technical challenge:

- ❑ Some reclaimed names contain diacritical marks, Indigenous language characters and other non-Latin characters
- ❑ Limited capacity of government systems, particularly provincial vital stats agencies (VSAs), to accommodate or display non-Latin characters on identity documents
- ❑ IRS can record diacritical/non-Latin characters, but functionality not used due to inability of reliant systems to integrate/display these characters

Same shared challenges:

- ❑ IRCC: limited system capacity for non-Latin characters; international technical standards for some documents (i.e. passports) also require that name be displayed in Latin characters
- ❑ CBSA: enable to use non-Latin characters in systems (customs, airports, boarding cards, etc.)
- ❑ P/T VSAs: can only currently accept names with Latin characters



Next Steps

ISC working to:

- ☐ Further integrate non-Latin characters throughout internal systems.
- ☐ Test functionality and determine capacity of both ISC and partners' systems' ability to serve persons with non-Latin character names.
- ☐ Supporting individuals in reclaiming their names and communicating the changes.
- ☐ Work with partners to establish a service delivery model with guidance for persons informed by Central Agencies.
- ☐ Explore integrating mononyms as a reclaimed name into our systems.
- ☐ Continue engaged discussions with Canadian Bank Note (CBN) so that they can become aligned with our requirements.



Discussion Questions

- ❑ How can federal, provincial and territorial governments work together in a coordinated way to support Indigenous names in Indigenous languages?
- ❑ What character set should be used to support all or as many Indigenous languages as possible?

