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Dene Nation Calls upon the Federal Government to honour all 94 Calls to Action into Legislation on the five-year Anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Yellowknife, Northwest Territories – June 02, 2020] – Five years ago today, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released its Calls to Action, following a six-year mandate where more than 6,750 residential school survivors across Canada provided testimony after over a century of abuse.

“As a Residential School and Day School Portfolio Holder for the Assembly of First Nations, I call upon the federal government to take the necessary steps to ensure all 94 Calls to Action into legislation. This is critical to dismantling the systems that continue to perpetuate the ongoing legacy of colonialism,” said National Chief Yakeleya, “In the Northwest Territories, the legacy of these institutions are never ever far from our minds and we continue to see the legacy of trauma in our communities.”

The Dene Nation is looking to the Call to Action 21, which calls upon the federal government ‘to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority’ be immediately implemented, so that intergenerational healing may begin in Denendeh.

“Right now, we are seeing the toll that oppression and racism has had across North America, especially in the justice system. We’ve had a roadmap provided to us for the past five years to mitigate historical trauma and work to resolve systemic oppression in Canada. Reconciliation requires accountability, transparency, political will, and joint leadership. The time to act is now. The public is demanding it.” concluded Yakeleya.

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