



# Post-Secondary Experience of Indigenous Students Following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The report analyzes survey results from 290 Indigenous recipients of bursary and scholarship funds from Indspire between 2015 and 2018, specifically with regards to their perspectives on the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action in higher education, following their release in 2015.



## Educational Funding

Students described lack of financial resources for Indigenous post-secondary education and on-campus services for Indigenous students.

Students told Indspire there is a need to align funding decisions tied to scholarship and bursary programs and those of their home communities with timelines and processes of post-secondary institutions.



## Culture, Identity, and Belonging

Many students did not find post-secondary institutions had taken the time to create settings where Indigenous students see themselves, their history and their culture incorporated into courses, systems, processes and supports, with the exception of Indigenous schools, where Indigenous culture was treated like a priority rather than an accommodation.



## Emotional Labour

Students felt a great deal of pressure from post-secondary institutions to play a role in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and did not always feel as though it was optional to participate, but rather expected of them in the post-secondary space.



## Best Practices

Students reported more progress in Indigenous post-secondary institutions and programs than non-Indigenous ones. The work to be done was felt more in some disciplines than others (e.g., law and medicine where students felt no significant movement), with language as a particularly intimate pain point.

*“We need more Indigenous role models in the classroom. We are not being set up for success if we don't see ourselves being reflected in these positions of success and respect.”*

## Mentorship and Support Needs

Students reported feeling an absence of Indigenous educators in the classroom. Additionally, Indigenous student service program staff were reported to be overworked, having a real impact on students navigating their education journeys.



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## RECOMMENDATION

- ✓ Increased sustainable funding for Indigenous students and Indigenous campus resources.
- ✓ Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action in post-secondary spaces.
- ✓ Strengthening of Indigenous culture, identity, and belonging through mentorship on campus and beyond.

