

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT MOHAMED LACHEMI
AT THE PRESENTATION THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT
January 26, 2018**

Good afternoon, everyone. Say-Goh, Tan-say, Ah-Knee

Greetings to our honoured guests:
Members of our Indigenous community including our
Grandmothers and Grandfathers
Chair of the Ryerson Board of Governors, Janice
Fukakusa
Members of our Aboriginal Education Council

Special greeting to the students, chaperones and
principal from Dene High School in La Loche,
Saskatchewan. We are privileged to have you join
us in today's ceremony

Our deepest thanks to Denise O'Neil Green and
Elder Joanne Dallaire for leading the community
consultations.

And to the Ryerson students, faculty, and staff – both Indigenous and not – who were part of the process.

“Education has gotten us into this mess, and education will get us out.” That thought came from Senator Murray Sinclair, Chief Commissioner of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

And I cannot think of a more powerful call to action for Ryerson University. Ryerson has what it takes to make a difference. We can put our expertise in education, research, scholarship and community engagement to work on the challenge of reconciliation.

And I am here to say that we will. Ryerson will immediately begin seven key initiatives.

We will:

1. Double the number of Indigenous faculty at Ryerson.
2. Increase the number of Indigenous staff.
3. Create more pathways for Indigenous students to study here.
4. Provide more award and scholarship funding for Indigenous students.
5. Provide resources for faculty to Indigenize the curriculum.
6. Designate outdoor space for Indigenous ceremonies.
7. Commit to raise external funding to create a Ryerson Chair in Reconciliation.

Ryerson's Provost and Vice President Academic, Michael Benarroch – in conjunction with our Vice President, Equity and Community Inclusion, Denise O'Neil Green – will lead our working group.

These are substantial and meaningful investments – and I am proud of Ryerson for committing to them. But let us not rely on others to do the work that is required for real and lasting change.

As a human being, I find it deeply painful to know that many young indigenous people feel hopeless. As a leader, I have been thinking about how this community of caring individuals might ensure that these young people have a chance to face the future with confidence.

And the answer is this – we must change Ryerson’s culture.

Every one of us – each student, each faculty member and instructor, each member of staff – must make their own commitment to reconciliation. Ryerson knows that education is the key to reconciliation.

And today we make a profound and enduring commitment to this generation of Indigenous people – and those to come. Ryerson is with you.

There are many issues facing our community, and we are all working in good faith to resolve them. At this historic moment, let us join together in heart and spirit to celebrate our community's work and values.

Thank you.

I now invite Provost and Vice President Academic Michael Benarroch to speak.

CONCLUSION

This day is a turning point in the history of our university. The path to reconciliation has begun. We are moving forward together, with confidence.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in this afternoon's ceremony: the performers, the speakers, the special guests.

Thank you to everyone for coming to share in this ceremony and please make sure to stay for the community feast. Nya-weh, Wachiye, Me-Gwetch

Joanne, please come forward for the closing.