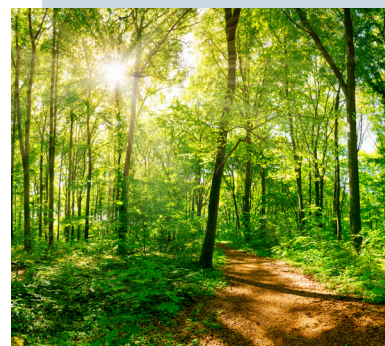


# TAKING ACTION ON RECONCILIATION

CBABC is committed to helping lawyers build their Indigenous cultural competency and to ongoing advocacy for the justice system to evolve and incorporate principles of Indigenous laws and practices.

## Policy & Law Reform

As noted on page 3, CBABC members prepared the report, **On Matters of Indigenous Justice in British Columbia**, making 27 recommendations for law and policy changes to improve the experiences of Indigenous people in our legal and justice systems. In February 2022, the government announced a \$12M investment for a Declaration Act Secretariat, followed by the *Declaration Act Action Plan* released in March. Although these were positive steps forward, CBABC continues to advocate so that the work produces tangible results for Indigenous communities with appropriate funding and an established framework for reviewing legislation.



## Education & Law Firm Resources

In September 2021, CBABC launched a four-part **Truth & Reconciliation Series**. Over 320 participants learned how to engage in economic reconciliation with Indigenous businesses and First Nations and how public and private sector counsel can drive reconciliation efforts forward. In our highest-attended PD program of the year, *T&R Series Part 1: Economic Reconciliation—Working in a Colonial Framework*, participants learned how to adopt an inter-cultural communication strategy and build a responsible reconciliation investment lens into practice.

Our **Reconciliation Response Plan for Law Firms (RRP)** continues to be a useful tool to help law firms advance reconciliation in their businesses. After engaging with managing partners of larger firms to discover what would help them establish an RRP, CBABC hosted a webinar led by Berry Hykin, Woodward & Company Lawyers LLP and Zach Romano, Fasken. They shared insights of how those firms implemented plans that reflected their values and business goals along with practical advice for developing RRP.

## Reconciliation Action Plan Review

Throughout the year, the CBABC Truth & Reconciliation Committee engaged with groups of members to develop the next iteration of our Reconciliation Action Plan. Recognizing that each member's journey in reconciliation may be at different stages, the updated Plan will continue to enable cultural awareness learning opportunities, support for Indigenous lawyers, and law and policy submissions.

## Supporting Indigenous Lawyers

The CBABC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum hosted the first return to in-person celebrations with the 2021 ALF Holiday Banquet, providing much-appreciated connections among old friends and new. In May, the ALF Retreat, *Indigenous Thriving*, gave Indigenous lawyers a deeper level of self-knowledge and cultural teachings by learning from Indigenous practitioners.