



The mission of professional schools of social work, as expressed by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) is “to promote excellence in social work education, scholarship, and practice with human rights and responsibility and social justice focus”. The Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina is committed to achieving these broad goals, and confronting structural inequalities with the aim of achieving a just society. With this in mind, the Faculty of Social Work expresses its deep concern regarding the events surrounding the Stanley trial, and absolute condemnation of the violent statements emerging within social media and other public media. It is clear to us that the events leading to the trial and outcome reflect deep societal issues and concerns. These include the long term impact of colonization, residential schools, and genocide of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities have witnessed impacts such as violence and poverty; as well as underfunding and lack of funding of educational and social institutions within Indigenous communities. As Canada works to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, Canadians are confronted with having to deal with decades of pain and mistrust. Coming from the side of all Indigenous peoples ---this pain and mistrust is always present. Because racism, discrimination, and marginalization are an integral aspect of Indigenous peoples’ lives The stories of pain and mistrust are endless: from the 1990 death of 17-year old Neil Stonechild who was found frozen to death near Saskatoon (dropped off by police officers); to the 1991 death of Leo LaChance who was shot by white supremacist Carney Nerland as he was walking out of a store; to the 1995 killing of Pamela George by two white male university students; to events leading to the killing of Colten Boushie. And on and on. The stories reflect deep seated racism, discrimination, and violence towards Indigenous peoples.

We are called upon as Canadians from all walks of life to be proper human beings and to recognize the value of Indigenous peoples' lives. What is required is dismantling much of what we have grown accustomed to as institutions and systems. It will be hard work. But this is part of reconciliation. As the writers of the Truth and Reconciliation report note: For Canadians from all walks of life, reconciliation offers a new way of living together.

The Faculty of Social Work calls on all Saskatchewan peoples to take responsibility for the racism that has led to killings, poverty, marginalization, and attempts of genocide of Indigenous men, women, and children. We call on all Saskatchewan peoples to go back to the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: to learn about the history of Canada, of Indigenous peoples, of historical roots of conflict, and to take the action we have been called upon to do.