**Justice Sinclair:**

***on the completion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the release of the 94 recommendations.***

EXCERPTS:

“Ours was a process of research, sharing and above all else, listening. In this way it was a commission like no other.

It was set up not by government, but by the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement seeking to repair the harm caused by residential schools.”

“First, the Survivors need to know before they leave this earth that people understand what happened and what the schools did to them.

Second, the Survivors need to know that, having been heard and understood, that we will act to ensure the repair of damages done.”

“If we are to truly live by our convictions, we must confront and accept that Canada’s history includes a history that’s inconsistent with how we see ourselves.”

“We must remember that at the same time Aboriginal children were made to feel inferior, generation after generation of non-Aboriginal children were exposed to the false belief that their culture was superior.”

“From child welfare to legal and economic concerns…

…from education to language, culture, health, business and commemoration, our 94 recommendations endeavour to confront the complexities associated with reconciliation.”

“Many of our Commission’s recommendations are grounded in the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

“Words are not enough.”

“The courts have recognized this history and upheld the nationhood and the rights of Aboriginal people in their legal decisions.

Now it is time for Canadian governments and Canadian society to do their part.”

We must all call for the ongoing progress of reconciliation, regardless of political affiliation, cultural background or personal history of connection to this dark history.

Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem – it involves all of us.

Many recommendations put forward by our commission include detailed public reports on the progress of the reconciliation process. In this way, some aspects of reconciliation will be manifested as concrete goals, against which the efficacy of government actions can be measured.