



## **Workshop: Sport and Reconciliation – an Elder’s Story**

A workshop hosted by the PacificSport Vancouver Island Coach Academy  
and delivered by the Called to Action Collaborative

**Date:** Sunday, March 3, 2024 | 6:00 - 8:30 pm Pacific Time

**Location:** Zoom. Link Access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89406846065?from=addon>

**Join by telephone:** 1-778-907-2071 **Meeting ID:** 894 0684 6065

### **Purpose of the Workshop**

The purpose of this workshop is to assist coaches and athletes to better understand the colonial history of Canada through an exploration of an Elder’s experience in residential schools, as well as his experience as a soccer player, coach, and sport administrator.

Through this exploration and a small pre-workshop assignment, participants will:

- Have a better understanding of the word ‘reconciliation’ and why efforts of coaches to eliminate racism and reduce barriers for Indigenous athletes in sport are so important
- Become more familiar with circle process, personal introductions, and protocols
- Become more aware of terminology when speaking about Indigenous peoples
- Be introduced to concepts of athlete development through a holistic Indigenous perspective

### **Pre-workshop Reading & Viewing**

Participants are asked to do the following **before the workshop**. This will take **approx 10 minutes**.

- 1) **Read the sports-related TRC Calls to Action #87-91** of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (also reproduced below on p.3).

Why: The TRC provided Canada with a path forward to help heal and repair some of the harms caused by residential schools and other Canadian policies. As coaches and athletes, it helps to know what the TRC proposed related to sports, so you can work with your peers to help implement these ‘Calls to Action’.

- 2) **Watch this terminology video: How to talk about Indigenous people** (3 min)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEzjA5RoLv0>

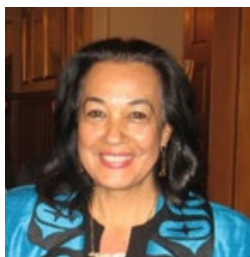
Why: When speaking with (or about) Indigenous peoples, it’s helpful to use the appropriate terminology and understand when to use the terms “First Nations”, “Indigenous,” “Aboriginal”, “Metis”, “Inuit” or ... specific Nations names like Songhees, Cowichan Tribes, Musgamagw Dzawada’enuxw, etc.

## Workshop Facilitators



### **Alex Nelson – OK’WILAGAME’**

Elder Alex Nelson is a member of the Musgamagw Dzawada’enuwx First Nations in Kingcome Inlet. He is a residential school survivor and long-time Indigenous sport advocate. He has played and coached soccer throughout his life and was Executive Director for the 1997 North American Indigenous Games. In 2018 he was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame.



### **Nella Nelson - Klaapasugwela**

Nella Nelson is originally from the N’amgis Nation of Alert Bay and married into the Musgamagw Dzawada’enuwx Nation. Nella worked for the Greater Victoria School District as a high school history teacher, counsellor and district administrator for the Aboriginal Nations Education Division. She serves on numerous Boards and committee and received a Uvic distinguished Alumni award in 2019. Nella is an author and regular public speaker



### **Sebastian Silva**

Sebastian is a visitor to the coast, with French Canadian, Irish and Spanish Ancestry. He studied law and built a career as a management consultant. Over the last decade, he has worked with Indigenous communities and organizations, supporting the work of Elders and other Indigenous knowledge keepers to promote Indigenous learning and anti-racism education in support of reconciliation.

You can learn more about your facilitators and the Called to Action Collaborative [HERE](#)

## Agenda

TIME	ACTIVITY
6:00 pm	<b>Opening</b> Acknowledgements, Elder opening prayer, workshop overview Introduction circles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants introduce themselves in circle</li> </ul>
6:30 pm	<b>Residential School Video Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alex to introduce video, set context (5 min)</li> <li>Play residential school video (55 min)</li> </ul>
7:30 pm	<b>Break (10 min)</b>
7:40 pm	<b>Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post video Q &amp; A</li> <li>Guided discussion – reconciliation and sport</li> </ul>
8:20 pm	<b>Closing Circle</b>
8:30 pm	<b>End of Workshop</b>

## Self-Care

The workshop deals with emotionally difficult topics, including government and church-run residential schools. Participants should come with this awareness and take steps to care for themselves, such as being well hydrated, rested, and in a calm space to engage with the material. Please note that the workshop is a *safe space*; we invite everyone to come respectfully with an open mind and heart. There is no blame or judgment, this is an opportunity to learn together, to heal and grow.

If anyone feels emotionally triggered by some of the content, they should reach out to someone and talk about it. Helplines are available such as the Residential School Survivors line **1-800-721-0066** or in BC by calling either **2-1-1** or the Mental Health Support line: **310-6789**.

## Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada [Calls to Action 87-91](#)

**The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report was released with 94 calls to action, including five (#87-91) that addressed reconciliation tied to sport specifically.**

**All state legislatures in Canada now acknowledge and are working to address these calls to action as a means of reconciling with the Indigenous peoples of Canada and moving towards a shared future.**

**These calls to action include the following:**

**87.** We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

**88.** We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

**89.** We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.

**90.** We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:

- i.** In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
- ii.** An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
- iii.** Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
- iv.** Anti-racism awareness and training programs.

**91.** We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events. (TRC, 2015, 336).