



# Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope

We are the Carriers of Hope, ages 13 – 18 years old and representing the ten Assembly of First Nations Regions: please, hear our voices.

When First Nations youth mental health and wellness are supported, we will achieve more. Our Calls to Action are here to address and support the mental, spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing of all First Nations youth. These are our Calls:

1. We call upon all levels of government to increase funding for education to have male, female and Two-Spirit Elders have a significant role in schools; as counsellors or teaching traditional ways, which will support the mental, spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing of First Nations youth in every school in Canada.
2. We appreciate the significant investment in land and cultural programming announced by the Assembly of First Nations and the Government of Canada. This commitment matters to First Nations youth because culture and being on the land keeps our traditions alive while connecting us to ourselves, families, Nations and Ancestors. However, we call for the expansion of this current funding to all First Nations students to include the North, and those living off reserve. This becomes another resource to support their wellbeing and success.
3. We call for increased funding for Early Childhood Development (ECD), increased daycare options, and lowering the age requirement for First Nations children to access ECD programs. This will ensure there will be a safe and secure space for our children and sustain young First Nations parents education.
4. We call for equitably funded Kindergarten to grade 12 schools with a sufficient amount of resources, supports, and culturally aware faculty for First Nations students in every Nation across the country.
5. We call on the Assembly of First Nations, Federal Government, and national organizations to encourage the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to influence and advocate for the inclusion of our shared history and First Nation knowledge into curricula.