

City of Mississauga  
**Memorandum**



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Date: October 14, 2021  
To: Chair and Members of Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.  
From: John Dunlop, Manager, Indigenous Relations and Heritage Planning  
Meeting date: October 20, 2021  
Subject: **City of Mississauga Annual Reconciliation Report**

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**Recommendations:**

That the City of Mississauga remains committed to Truth and Reconciliation and that the City continue to renew its relationship with its Treaty partners;

That the City of Mississauga recognize the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and implement any changes from this recognition in line with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

That the City of Mississauga adopt the renewed Land Acknowledgement and Statement of Reconciliation and that Council mandate its use for all Standing and Advisory Committee meetings;

That the City of Mississauga file its annual reconciliation report with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

**Background:**

The City of Mississauga formally created the Indigenous Relations Unit within the Culture Division in 2020. The mandate of the unit is to provide advice and guidance to staff and Council on matters pertaining to work with our Indigenous Treaty partners and residents. Indigenous Relations brought forward two reports to Council in November, 2020, which recommended a renewal of the City's relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation by raising their flag in Council Chambers and amending the naming of the City bylaw to recognize the Ojibwe language from which it originated.

The reports further documented the actions the City was taking in relation to the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to further strengthen our relationship with the Peel Indigenous Network and Friendship Centres in Ontario.

**Comments:**

2021 has been a year in which many truths about Canadian History have been brought to light. The City of Mississauga responded to the unmarked burials of residential schools tragedy by listening to Indigenous voices like Gimma Stacey Laforme, Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and

supporting communities and residents in their mourning by lowering flags, removing the celebratory aspects of Canada Day, and raising Indigenous voices through our official programming for National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sept 30).

Truth and Reconciliation is a process which takes time. The City of Mississauga has focused on truths in 2020, and has engaged in multiple learning opportunities for its staff and residents. The City also remains committed to sharing its lands and space with Indigenous peoples, which include providing space in Clarke Hall, Port Credit, for offices and programs for the Peel Indigenous Network and providing barrier free access for the Water Gathering Ceremony, hosted by Akina Maagaye Gammik Lodge in Erindale Park.

City Council furthered our commitments to reconciliation with the amending motion in June to call upon the Federal Government to cease its appeal of the Human Rights Tribunal decision regarding Jordan's Principle and survivors of both Residential Schools and the Sixties Scoop. This motion was circulated to the Federal Government as well as all municipalities across Canada and received support from several other municipalities.

In light of the revelations, truths and work which the City has adopted over the past year, staff are recommending a renewed Land Acknowledgment partnered with a Statement of Reconciliation (Appendix 1). Combined, these statements are recommended to be used for all Council, standing committee and advisory committee meetings. The statements will also be posted on the City's website so they can be used by the residents, along with guidance regarding on their use.

Staff are further recommending that the City recognize the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as per the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* passed by the Federal government in June of this year. Further implementation of the declaration will be forthcoming in line with the *Act*. Recognition of UNDRIP is Call to Action #43 directed to all levels of Government. In total, there are nine Calls to Action which directly apply to the City of Mississauga. To date the City has taken and continue to take action on all nine, as well as an additional four Calls to Action not specific to municipalities but are nonetheless actionable by the City (Appendix 2).

### **Conclusion:**

The City of Mississauga is continuing its work towards reconciliation by addressing the Truths around colonialism and Canadian history. We continue to renew our relationships with our Treaty partners and promote reconciliation within the City.

### **Attachments**

Appendix 1: Renewed Land Acknowledgment and Statement of Reconciliation

Appendix 2: Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and City of Mississauga's responding Actions.

