

Truth and Reconciliation

City of Mississauga

October 20, 2021



Truth and Reconciliation in Mississauga

- Focus on Truth and raising awareness to residents about Indigenous Peoples and their history and presence in the City.
- Focus on upholding Treaty obligations through engagement and consultation.
- Focus on strengthening our relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Huron-Wendat Nation and our Indigenous Residents.

“Reconciliation cannot happen without truth-telling, and we are still very much in the truth-telling part of it” Jesse Wenté

And when I am asked what does Reconciliation mean to me
I will say I want their lives back, I want them to live, to soar
I want to hear their laughter, See their smiles
Grant me that, and I’ll grant you Reconciliation

Reconciliation, Gimma Stacey Laforme, MCFN, 2021

Indigenous Peoples



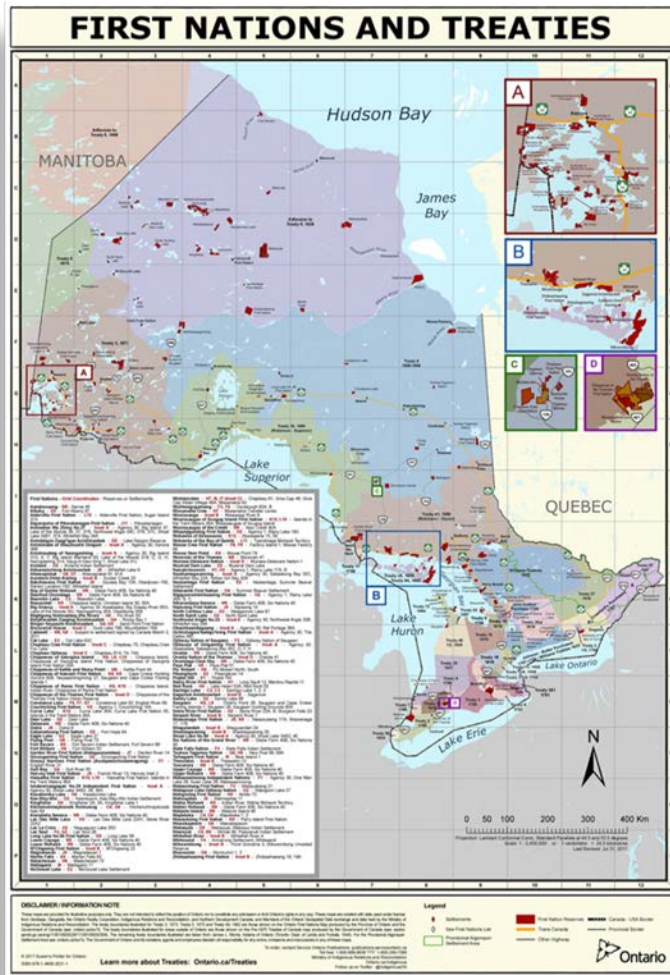
- Indigenous Peoples have occupied the lands which make up the City of Mississauga since time immemorial.
- **Indigenous Communities** have **specific and inherent rights** under Federal and Provincial Legislation- Aboriginal Rights-supported through Treaties and Section 35 of the Constitution Act
- **Indigenous Peoples** are the **only people** with specific and inherent rights under the Constitution.

These rights have chronically not been recognized or upheld.

Key Partners:

- Indigenous Residents and Organizations
- Mississaugas of the Credit- Treaty Holders (Treaties 13/14, 22, 23 and active water claim)
- Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat have Traditional Territory

Settlers and Treaties



- **Settlers** are anyone in Canada who is not Indigenous.
- ‘Settler’ is not a derogatory term but is used in the same way as ‘Indigenous’, it is a broad term meant to easily describe Treaty partners.
- Settlers are not the same as colonizers.
- **Treaties** are the legal agreements which were signed between the Crown and the Indigenous Nations to allow for settlement of the lands by immigrant populations.
- Every Canadian is a Treaty partner, we are all Treaty People.
- **Treaties** were signed with conditions, which typically include **payment for the settlement of the land** through cash and goods, with Indigenous people **retaining an inherent interest and rights** within the Treaty area.

Consultation and Engagement

There are multiple Federal and Provincial regulations and legislation which require consultation or engagement on projects such as;

- Infrastructure,
- Planning and development,
- Environment, including water and other climate initiatives,
- Heritage and archaeology

Days of Significance

- National Indigenous Peoples Day,
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation,
- Canada Day,

Programming for each day involved engagement and partnerships with the Mississaugas of the Credit and saw over 20,000 unique engagements online and in person.



National Day
for **Truth and Reconciliation**



Indigenous Place making

City Initiatives over the past year have included partnering with MCFN on the Moccasin Identifier, public art projects in the Port Credit area, and leasing opportunities for the Peel Indigenous Network in Clarke Hall.



Renewed Land Acknowledgment and Statement of Reconciliation

The City's Indigenous Land Statement was introduced in 2017. In light of the City's continued commitment to reconciliation the statement has been renewed into a Land Acknowledgement and paired with a statement of reconciliation.

We acknowledge the lands which constitute the present-day City of Mississauga as being part of the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy the Huron-Wendat and Wyandotte Nations. We recognize these peoples and their ancestors as peoples who inhabited these lands since time immemorial. The City of Mississauga is home to many global Indigenous Peoples.

As a municipality, the City of Mississauga is actively working towards reconciliation by confronting our past and our present, providing space for Indigenous peoples within their territory, to recognize and uphold their Treaty Rights and to support Indigenous Peoples. We formally recognize the Anishinaabe origins of our name and continue to make Mississauga a safe space for all Indigenous peoples.

Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Calls to Action

There are **8 Calls to Action** specific to the mandates of the City of Mississauga:

Call to Action	City Response
<p>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples #43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.</p>	<p>Recommendation Report to Council in Nov 2021 to recommend the City formally recognize UNDRIP.</p>
<p>Treaty Relationships #45. We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments: iii. Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to reaffirm our relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit, Six Nations of the Grand River, Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Huron-Wendat First Nation. • Continues to foster relationships and opportunities for organizations led and supporting indigenous peoples within the City of Mississauga • Continues to promote Indigenous place making through public lands and using strategies such as the Moccasin Identifier.

Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Call to Action	City Response
<p>National Council for Reconciliation #55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation [NCR] so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation.</p>	<p>The City will be submitting an annual reconciliation report to NCR in Nov, 2021</p>
<p>Indigenous Education to Public Servants #57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.</p>	<p>The City is currently working to implement mandatory enterprise-wide awareness training. The City had featured Indigenous speakers for staff as education opportunities in advance of National Indigenous Peoples Day with Tanya Talaga and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation with Niigaan Sinclair.</p> <p>The City has also released several Equity alerts focusing on Indigenous topics such as land acknowledgments and Residential Schools, as well as an Indigenous Toolkit for staff to further their learning.</p>

Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Call to Action	City Response
<p>Recognition of Indigenous Holidays #80. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honor Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the City should continue to officially recognize annual Indigenous holidays including: National Indigenous History Month (June) Canada’s National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st) Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30th) Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario (First week of November)</p>
<p>Indigenous Athletes #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.</p>	<p>City Council endorsed resolution 0193-2019 on Sept 11th 2019. As a result, the City will continue to not permit the display of any Indigenous images in the City’s sport and recreation facilities that are related to non-Indigenous sports organizations and will work with Indigenous and community sports groups to proactively build awareness of this policy through open communication and education. It is recommended that the City continues on this course of action.</p>

Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Call to Action	City Response
<p>Indigenous Athletes #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.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the City continues to host the Little National Hockey League Tournament and engage with Indigenous communities for large sporting events. The City will also be hosting the Ontario Games in 2022.</p>
<p>Indigenous Business Opportunities #92. We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following: ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.</p>	<p>The City continues to engage with Indigenous perspectives on its Sustainable Procurement Policy which directly speaks to making procurements available to equity seeking groups, including Indigenous peoples.</p>

Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Calls to Action

There are **4 Calls to Action** outside of the City's mandate which the City is taking action:

Call to Action	City Response
<p>Jordan's Principle #3 We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.</p>	<p>City Council passed a motion in June, 2021, calling upon the Federal Government to cease its appeal of the Human Rights Tribunal decisions related to Jordan's Principle.</p>
<p>Access to health services #20 In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.</p>	<p>The City's Open Window Hub partners with the Region of Peel and the Peel Indigenous Network to ensure that Indigenous peoples seeking assistance are provided with culturally appropriate services. .</p>

Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Call to Action	City Response
<p>Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women #41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools. 	<p>Currently, the City's libraries and museums hold educational programming about Indigenous matters, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.</p> <p>It is recommended that the City continues to provide this programming.</p>
<p>Oath of Citizenship #94</p> <p>We call upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of Citizenship with the following: I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.</p>	<p>The City adopted the new Oath of Citizenship in its Canada Day event to formally recognize the Treaties with Indigenous Peoples.</p>

Next Steps

Continuing on the Calls to Action:

- The City is continuing economic development and procurement work with MCFN.
- Continuing to create place making opportunities and raising awareness.
- Honouring the Treaties through engagement and consultation.

Master Plan:

- Creation of a Master Plan which will examine current policies and practices through engagement to better incorporate Indigenous perspectives in the City's practices.

Understanding:

- Indigenous Peoples have faced the greatest erasure in highly developed urban environments. Reconciliation is only possible through recognition of this erasure and seeking solutions.

Thank you

- Questions?