

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: April 26, 2023</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: May 24, 2023</p>

Subject

Annual Reconciliation Report

Recommendation

1. That the corporate report dated April 26, 2023 entitled "Annual Reconciliation Report" from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved and that the report be filed with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
2. That the City of Mississauga remains committed to Truth and Reconciliation and that the City continue to renew its relationship with its Treaty partners.
3. That the City of Mississauga continue to take action on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the Calls for Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as outlined in the corporate report dated April 26, 2023 entitled "Annual Reconciliation Report" from the Commissioner of Community Services.

Executive Summary

- The Indigenous Relations Office continue to advise and guide Council and Staff on all matters regarding Reconciliation and the City's Relationship with our Indigenous Partners.
- The City is taking action on 13 of the TRC Calls to Action and taking action on municipal-specific Calls for Justice in the MMWIG report.
- The City's efforts focus on combating erasure and ensuring that the Indigenous culture and history of the land are shared and celebrated, as well as endeavours regarding economic Reconciliation.
- In 2022, the City took part in multiple events and activations; including the raising of the Every Child Matters flag, the Mississaugas of the Credit Flag, the Moccasin Identifier Crosswalk, National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Moccasin Identifier Project and Gidinawendimin – We Are All Related.

- Reconciliation is everyone's responsibility, and Indigenous Relations is working with every Ward, Department and Division across the City to see our commitments met.

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 Council and staff on matters pertaining to work with our Indigenous Treaty partners and residents and to manage our relationship with our Indigenous partners. Over the past three years, the City has answered and taken action on the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, worked to mark the continual documentation of Residential School graves, brought forward awareness campaigns around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The City has continued to work on strengthening our relationships with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat Nation.

The relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples is a Nation-to-Nation relationship. The Crown has held that relationship for many years through legislation such as the Indian Act. Over the past few years, municipalities have become more active in this relationship as we all travel together on the path towards Reconciliation.

Mississauga has a lengthy relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). As the location of their reserve until its forced closure in 1847, the Mississaugas were the occupants of the lands prior to settlement. The Mississaugas of the Credit have an indelible relationship with the same places as the City's current residents. A ceremony was held in 1968, when the Township adopted the name Mississauga with MCFN. A scroll was exchanged with a "Freedom of the Town" Grant to mark the occasion. Two other exchanges in the form of Friendship Treaties were signed in 1979 and 2005 respectively, marking the continued relationship between First Nations and City.

Presently, the City collaborates and cooperates with MCFN on all manner of events, activities, policies and projects. Any and all Indigenous themed program, offering or event run by the City involves collaboration and Indigenous guidance and leadership.

Comments

Recent events have brought to light truths regarding the ongoing nature, and history, of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples. The tragic documentation of unmarked burials at multiple Residential Schools, combined with ongoing boil water advisories and the legal action through appeals against decisions for survivors have raised the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples to a national level.

Our Relationships

We have a long history and relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Our work together is bringing forward stronger awareness and consideration across the City. In November, Council permanently raised the MCFN flag in Council Chambers to fly alongside all other flags as an acknowledgment to our relationship, the Treaties that made way for the City and their history on the land. City Leadership also took part in a visit to the Mississaugas of the Credit community for a day of learning and sharing to better know each other and find ways to work together.

In a demonstration of our relationship, the City, collaboration with the Mississauga Nation, will host their first ever joint Pow Wow in Celebration Square on June 21st, 2023. The Pow Wow is shared by six Mississauga First Nations; the Mississaugas of the Credit, Scugog Island, Hiawatha, Mississauga First Nation, Alderville and Curve Lake. The Pow Wow will be part of the City's National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations and is the first Pow Wow jointly-hosted by all six First Nations and held in Celebration Square.

Place making and Activations

To date, our work as a City has focused on combatting the erasure facing Indigenous Peoples across Canada. It is well documented that Indigenous erasure is strongest within the GTA, where Reserves and settlements such as the Credit Mission Village were forced to close to make way for settlement.

Place making and activations are a strong method of combatting this erasure by physical returning Indigenous culture back to a landscape where it had been removed;

- The City has worked on several such initiatives; including the raising of the Every Child Matters flag in Celebration Square to act as a reminder and marker to those that did not return from Residential Schools.
- We have also partnered with the Moccasin Identifier Project, created and led by Carolyn King. The Moccasin Identifier Project is an activation tool which seeks to return Indigenous footprints across the landscape from whence they had been removed. Operated through the Museums, the Moccasin Identifier is prominently used at major City events, at our facilities, and through our Summer Camp programs. The Moccasin Identifier is also featured prominently in a permanent location at the Moccasin Crosswalk at Lakefront Promenade and Lakeshore Road and in the ice pads at Iceland Arena.
- Council passed a motion to formally commemorate the Antrex Site in the new park replacing Grand Highland golf course. The Antrex Site was a prominent village 800 years ago and was located, prior to excavation, immediately adjacent to the proposed new park.
- City has embarked on an ambitious project of an Indigenous Art Walk along the waterfront which will tell the story of the Mississaugas of the Credit and other Indigenous peoples who have lived in these lands. Highlights of this walk include the Flame of Life

at Fire Station 104 and Dancer, a private contribution at the FRAM corporate offices in Port Credit.

Events

The City hosted two major events last year; our first annual National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration in Celebration Square, in collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Gidinawendimin – We Are All Related, in collaboration with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Training and Education

The City is committed to furthering our learning on Indigenous culture and Canada's history. We continue to work on this by providing mandatory cultural awareness training provided through NVision, ongoing Equity Alerts and an up-to-date Indigenous Learning Toolkit. We have also had a series of Grandmothers, Elders and speakers such as Peter Schuler, Kim Wheatley, Carolyn King, Tanya Talaga, and Phyllis Webstead speak to staff to further our collective understandings. The City's Leadership also paid their respects at the Woodland Cultural Centre, formerly the Mohawk Institute or 'Mush Hole', the oldest and one of the longest running Residential Schools in Canada and the site of current work by the Survivor Secretariat documenting the unmarked graves of the victims of that school.

Economic Reconciliation

Last year, the City became a member of the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business. This membership allows us access to the growing Indigenous marketplace and source directly from Indigenous owned businesses.

Consultation and Engagement

Consultation and engagement are the legislative requirements set forth under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* that recognize the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples to be consulted on a wide range of matters, including impacts to the lands and waters in their territory, as well as the cultural heritage and other legislative matters. Over the past five years, the Province has increased the amount of regulation and legislation that moves this requirement from the Province down to the municipality. Meeting these requirements is a key part of our relationship with our Indigenous partners and we continue to work towards a process that will make this work more efficient for our partners and ourselves.

The City is currently piloting a process of regularly scheduled meetings with MCFN's Department of Consultation and Accommodation to ensure we are informing and consulting as early and effectively as possible. We are currently meeting and discussing the City's Official Plan, Future Directions, the Archaeological Management Plan as well as a variety of other projects from Capital Infrastructure, Parks, Forestry and the Environment to ensure that our projects include Indigenous perspectives and concerns. The City also meets regularly with Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation and on a project by project basis with the Huron-Wendat Nation and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy as required by regulation. The City acts with

integrity in all consultation matters and ensures participation on all relevant projects and addresses concerns as they arise.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

This year the City's Library and Museums worked to bring the REDress project to Mississauga. This project seeks to highlight the disproportionate loss of Indigenous women and girls across Canada and the very real issues of abuse, violence and human trafficking which take place across the country. The REDress project addresses calls for justice from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children Report, calling on all levels of government to raise awareness to this ongoing injustice.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact for adopting the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action in this report as funds for the initiatives have already been approved in the operational budgets of various departments across the City.

Conclusion

The City of Mississauga continues to work towards Reconciliation. The process of Reconciliation involves reconsidering many of the standard practices which govern municipal processes and hearing truths which are uncomfortable and challenging. It is in taking these actions that the City continues to honour and respect the Treaties which were signed for the land, and the Indigenous Peoples who have lived here since time immemorial.

Attachments

Appendix1: Responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action



Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

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