

Truth and Reconciliation

City of Mississauga

September 11, 2024



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, Six Nations of the Grand River, 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 Wentle

We have to learn how to talk to, and about, each other, with greater respect than has been the case in the past. We may not achieve reconciliation within my lifetime, or within the lifetime of my children, but we will be able to achieve it if we all commit to working towards it properly.”

Sen. Murray Sinclair

Indigenous Peoples, Settlers and Treaties



- **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 and are the only people recognized as such.
- Indigenous Peoples are rights holders. They should not be considered under EDI perspectives, but should be considered separately; primarily, and respectfully
- **Settlers** are all non-Indigenous Canadians and residents.
- The relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canada are governed by Treaties; agreements in which land was opened for development with rights of access and ownership upheld and recognized.

Indigenous Relations at the City of Mississauga

Established in 2020, the Indigenous Relations team is part of the larger Indigenous Relations, Heritage and Museums team, in the Parks, Forestry and Environment Division in Community Services.

Our Mandate is to advise and guide Mayor, Council, Leadership and all staff City-wide on Reconciliation and Duty to Consult and Engage. We also manage the relationship between Indigenous Nations and communities and the City.

Team: Becky Laforme, Liaison, Indigenous Relations
John Dunlop, Manager, Indigenous Relations, Heritage and Museums

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,
- Corporate Policies and training.

Awareness- Days of Significance

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Awareness Day
- National Indigenous Peoples Day
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



National Day
for **Truth and Reconciliation**



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.



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.



Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Calls to Action

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

#43 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

#45 Treaty Relationships,

#55 National Council for Reconciliation,

#57 Indigenous Education of Public Servants,

#80 Recognition of Indigenous Holidays,

#87& 88, Indigenous Athletes,

#92, Indigenous Business Opportunities

Recommendation to recognize the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in line with recent Federal Legislation.

Recommendation to submit the Reconciliation Report to the National Centre of Truth and Reconciliation.

Reconciliation and Responsibilities- City of Mississauga

Calls to Action

There are an addition **4 Calls to Action** specific to the mandates of the City of Mississauga and including:

#3 Jordan's Principle,

#20 Access to Health Services,

#41 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children,

#94 Oath of Citizenship

Truth and Reconciliation for Justice and Understanding

Continuing on the Calls to Action:

- The City is continuing economic development and procurement work with MCFN, Six Nations and other Indigenous communities.
- Continuing to create place making opportunities and raising awareness.
- Honouring the Treaties through engagement and consultation, adhering to recent and continued legislative change

Future Directions Recommendations

- Identify new opportunities to incorporate histories, traditions, interests and art forms from the cultures representative of the lands and peoples of Mississauga in culture programs and exhibitions.
- Create a Reconciliation Plan that provides policy and protocol related to the relationships and rights with the Urban Indigenous population and our Treaty and Traditional territory partners.

Thank you, Miigwetch, Sekoh, Tiawenhk

Indigenous Peoples have faced the greatest erasure in highly developed urban environments, most especially within the GTA.

Reconciliation is only possible through recognition of this erasure and seeking solutions.

