

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: October 22, 2020</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: November 4, 2020</p>

Subject

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the AMO Declaration on Friendship Centres

Recommendation

1. That the report titled "Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the AMO Declaration on Friendship Centres", dated October 22, 2020, from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.
2. That the following three initiatives be approved to reaffirm the City of Mississauga's commitment to furthering reconciliation with Indigenous communities:
 - a) Adoption of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action identified in this report;
 - b) Endorsement of the Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC); and
 - c) Direct staff, within the City's Culture Division, to provide an annual update to Council on the City's progress with implementing the 13 Municipally focused Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

Report Highlights

- In 2015, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada published 94 Calls to Action to forward Reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- Thirteen of these Calls to Action are directed at all Municipal Governments across Canada, and seven of these are actionable by the City.
- Responding to these Calls to Action furthers Reconciliation within the City and helps move the City forward in meaningful partnerships with its Indigenous Community partners and residents.

Background

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was established as one of the outcomes of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement between the Government of Canada, the churches, the survivors of the residential schools system and various Indigenous organizations in 2007. The purpose of the TRC was to rectify the legacy of residential schools and further the process of reconciliation in Canada. Over six years, the TRC recorded testimonies from over 6,000 survivors, and their families, and created a historical record of the residential schools system.

In 2015, the TRC presented 94 “Calls to Action” as part of its final report, thirteen of which apply to municipal governments. Over the past five years, municipalities across the country including Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, London, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary and Saskatoon have implemented various actions to answer this important call. The City of Mississauga is proud to do its part to further reconciliation by committing to the TRC Calls to Action outlined in this report.

Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

Earlier this year, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) put forth a joint declaration to improve the quality of life of Indigenous peoples in municipalities across Ontario. Municipalities are encouraged to adopt the Declaration through signatories of their elected officials to commit to building partnerships with Friendship Centres in their municipalities. The Indigenous Network is a Friendship Centre located in Mississauga and is a valued partner and collaborator.

Comments

Over the past few years, the City has built meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations and established processes, programs and initiatives to further reconciliation.

City Staff have reviewed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and has identified specific actions in which the City has already made progress as well as others it is positioned to meet.

Call to Action #41 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women states:

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:

i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

While the City does not have a mandate to directly investigate these crimes, the Library and Museums hold educational programming about Indigenous matters, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It is recommended that the City continues to provide this programming.

It is recommended that the City endorses the TRC Calls to Action in the table below to capture the important progress made as well as commit to future actions to further reconciliation.

Table 1 Recommended Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action to be adopted by the City of Mississauga

TRC Call to Action	Recommended City of Mississauga Initiatives to satisfy the Call to Action
<p>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>#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>Currently, the City works with Indigenous communities on land use planning and development matters, including long-term land use plans and Environmental Assessments.</p> <p>It is recommended that the City awaits further direction from the Federal government on Bill C-262.</p>
<p>Treaty Relationships</p> <p>#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:</p> <p>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"> • Reaffirms its relationship with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation by recognizing the Indigenous origin of the City's name and raising the flag of the Nation in Council Chambers • Continues to foster relationships with Indigenous communities that have Crown recognized treaties, land use areas and assertions within the boundaries of the City of Mississauga • Develops protocols for use of land acknowledgements, hosting official ceremonies and Indigenous Elders at the City • Creates Indigenous spaces and recognizes places that have significant Indigenous origins and Indigenous

TRC Call to Action	Recommended City of Mississauga Initiatives to satisfy the Call to Action
	names.
<p>National Council for Reconciliation</p> <p>#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. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care Services by child-welfare agencies. ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves. iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people. iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services. v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade. vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes. 	<p>It is recommended that the City provides Council with annual reporting of progress towards reconciliation. This report will be available to the public, including the National Council for Reconciliation.</p>

TRC Call to Action	Recommended City of Mississauga Initiatives to satisfy the Call to Action
vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.	
<p>Indigenous Education to Public Servants</p> <p>#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>	It is recommended that the City continues to provide staff with Indigenous learning opportunities and training with a view to expand to an Enterprise-wide system.
<p>Recognition of Indigenous Holidays</p> <p>#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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Indigenous History Month (June) b) Canada’s National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st) c) Orange Shirt Day (September 30th) d) Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario (First week of November)
<p>Indigenous Athletes</p> <p>#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>	City Council endorsed resolution 0193-2019 on Sept 11 th 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

TRC Call to Action	Recommended City of Mississauga Initiatives to satisfy the Call to Action
	course of action.
<p>Indigenous Athletes</p> <p>#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.</p>
<p>Indigenous Business Opportunities</p> <p>#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:</p> <p>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 has a Sustainable Procurement Policy which directly speaks to making procurements available to equity seeking groups, including Indigenous peoples. This policy assists in providing Corporate procurement information to Indigenous communities and businesses. It is recommended that the City continues to providing these procurements.</p>

Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

By adopting this declaration, the City will commit to continuing and strengthening its relationship with the Indigenous Network to collaborate on initiatives that improve the quality of life of Indigenous peoples in Mississauga.

Financial Impact

There is no new financial impact for adopting the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action in this report as funds for the initiatives will be funded through current operating budgets.

There is no cost to endorsing the Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

Conclusion

The City of Mississauga joins other municipalities across Canada in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. By adopting the principles of reconciliation, the City is moving to strengthen its relationship with Indigenous Communities and residents. Adopting the Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship with the Indigenous Network is one of several acts of Reconciliation the City is taking on the path through reconciliation.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services

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