

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its Open meeting held on 2023 February 01, received and adopted the *attached* report providing an update on the accomplishments and future initiatives for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor R. Lee
Vice Chair

Copied to: Chief Administrative Officer Deputy CAO/CFO GM Corporate Services GM Engineering GM Lands & Facilities GM Planning & Development GM Parks, Recreation & Culture Chief Librarian Chief Human Resources Officer
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS,
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL **DATE:** 2023 January 25

FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **FILE:** 2135 00
AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

SUBJECT: INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION UPDATE

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the accomplishments and future initiatives for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) published its final report detailing the experiences and impacts of the residential school system, creating a historical record of its legacy and consequences. One outcome of this report was a 'Call to Action' for local governments to implement efforts of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation within their communities and jurisdiction¹.

The City of Burnaby has made significant efforts towards implementing the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) 'Call to Action'* for local governments. This report provides information on the efforts accomplished during 2022 by the Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Division at the City of Burnaby and the proposed initiatives for 2023.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnaby is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Kwikwetlem First Nations. These are hənq̓ əmin' əm' -speaking people, with the exception of the Sḵwxwú7mesh who speak Sḵwxwú7mesh_ sníchim. Since time immemorial, each of these First Nations has celebrated its own unique

¹ Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. (ND). Retrieved from the internet on 2023 Jan 12: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-calls-to-action#:~:text=The%20TRC%20calls%20to%20action,a%20joint%20vision%20of%20reconciliation.>

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culture and history, while remaining connected to the others by family, social life, traditions, protocols, and language².

To date, many of the descendants of the həñqəmiñəṛṛ and Skwxwú7mesh_sníchim speaking peoples continue to live, work and play in what we now call City of Burnaby and many of its adjacent cities, along with other Indigenous Peoples who now also live here. The City of Burnaby, through its Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Division is committed to advancing reconciliation and acknowledges the history of colonization and its impacts on the original inhabitants of these lands.

3.0 2022 CITY OF BURNABY RECONCILIATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EFFORTS

During the year 2022 the Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Division at the City of Burnaby, by means of our external Consultant Mikelle Sasakamoose, has proactively engaged the First Nations on whose traditional territory we have the opportunity to work, live and play in. The division has worked on project referrals, master planning and endeavored to incorporate Indigenous traditions, culture, and language in future programs and initiatives.

A few noteworthy efforts and accomplishments of Truth and Reconciliation are as follows:

- Updated and finalized the Indigenous Referral Policy, and made significant efforts to socialize the new policy throughout City of Burnaby operations, programs and policies.
- Created an Indigenous Employee Network to support the recruitment and retention of Indigenous employees.
- Coordinated Council-to-Council meetings with səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation and xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam) Nation, including work to coordinate gifts of eco-sculptures to the host Nations in consultation and collaboration with these Nations.
- Facilitated ongoing correspondence and liaison with counterparts at all 4 Host Nations (Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Kwikwetlem) to build and maintain relationships, including issues management.
- Assisted in the development of Indigenous public art processes and policies within the City of Burnaby, as well as Nation-specific processes with səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) at City Hall.
- Informed, supported and participated in Indigenous engagement strategies in official community planning processes, including the Heritage Policy and Programs Review, and City of Burnaby's Archives Strategy.

² Burnaby Village Museum. (2019). Indigenous History in Burnaby Resource Guide. Retrieved from the internet on 2023 Jan 12: https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/media/hpo/_Data/_BVM_Library/2019/2019_0064_0001_002.pdf.

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- Worked with City staff to organize the City of Burnaby's biggest ever National Indigenous History Day celebration, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and informed Canada Day events from an Indigenous reconciliation perspective at the City of Burnaby.
- Provided support to community-initiated projects, like the reconciliation crosswalk at Westridge Elementary. As well as engaged in Indigenous relations and reconciliation correspondence with Burnaby residents.
- Worked with City staff to coordinate and facilitate educational and training opportunities for multiple City of Burnaby Departments, which included 2 workshops; and, a film premier and panel that took place in recognition of National Truth and Reconciliation Day.
- Represented the City of Burnaby on working groups and committees, including Burnaby Mountain Gondola Technical Working Group, Parkland/City of Burnaby Working Group, and Metro Vancouver Municipal Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) on Indigenous Relations.

The Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Divisions daily operational efforts also included providing advice, guidance, recommendations, resources and support on issues management regarding Indigenous referrals on regular City maintenance projects.

The Division also continuously worked with the different departments of the City on their specific projects that required the inclusion of Indigenous considerations. For example, work continued with Public Affairs and Marketing in providing support on content for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation communications, social media content, documents, and reports. In conjunction with People and Culture, and Public Affairs, Indigenous Relations coordinated events to engage community members on Truth and Reconciliation, including the Boot Drive initiative at City of Burnaby community centres in support of Indigenous children and youth in sports.

4.0 2023 RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES

For 2023, the Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Division will continue to focus its efforts in honouring and establishing strong foundations with host First Nations. The division aims to assist with the hiring of an Indigenous Relations Advisor and a Civic Archaeologist who will work on referrals with the Nations on behalf of the City of Burnaby.

The division works with Public Affairs to develop an *Indigenous Communications Strategy* for the City of Burnaby, as well as with the Marketing Department on an *Indigenous Social Media Strategy*; and, will assist in updating our website to include an indigenous lens and components.

Also, the Marketing and Communications Department is developing a *Naturally Burnaby* book, and the Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Division is assisting them in liaising with host First Nations to include traditional place names and uses of plants featured in the

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mentioned book. We are currently moving through the referral process with the Nations to request their participation.

Council-to-Council meetings are set to continue, and we will continue to work towards also initiating these relationship building opportunities with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem) Nations.

Further, this year, the National Indigenous History Day on June 21 will be observed with a celebration, and we will be exploring other activities and events throughout the City. Programs for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, on September 30, and for Canada Day, are still being planned.

We will also continue to work with host Nations to display Indigenous art at City Hall and seek other opportunities throughout the City of Burnaby.

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Call to Action #57*³, to increase cultural awareness and competencies, to better work with Indigenous Peoples, and to advance reconciliation, we will also continue to coordinate and present learning opportunities and events for staff, Mayor and Council.

The Truth and Reconciliation efforts at the City are continuously evolving, and as work takes shape, and initiatives, achievements and milestones occur, Council will be kept updated.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken on Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in 2022 as well as outlines future initiatives in 2023 to advance Truth and Reconciliation.

It is requested that the Executive Committee of Council recommend Council receive this report for information.



Noreen Kassam, CPA, CGA
DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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Copied to:	General Manager Engineering General Manager Lands and Facilities General Manager Planning and Development General Manager Corporate Services	General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture Chief Librarian Chief Human Resources Officer
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3 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. (ND). Retrieved from the internet on 2023 Jan 24: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf