

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the October 31, 2022, Office of the City Manager report OCM01477, be received for information.
2. That Attachment 3 of the October 31, 2022, Office of the City Manager report OCM01477 remain private pursuant to sections 21 (disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations) and 24 (advice from officials) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Requested Council Action	Information only		
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle	ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals		
CONNECTED This unifies our work as we achieve our strategic goals.	Healthy City		
City Plan Values	BELONG.		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Inclusive and compassionate	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Community safety and well-being
Corporate Business Plan	Transforming for the future		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA communities • Anti-Racism Strategy • City of Edmonton Indigenous Framework • Community Safety & Wellbeing Strategy 		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR_8386, Community and Public Services Committee, February 17, 2021 • CS01178, Community and Public Services Committee, May 30, 2022 • CS01218, Community and Public Services Committee, November 21, 2022 		

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Executive Summary

- This report provides Council with an update on how Administration is approaching the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and how this work fits within the City's Indigenous Framework.
- In keeping with the City's approach to reconciliation, Administration is committed to responding to the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) through specific activities related to awareness, addressing, resurgence and advocacy. Central to this work is kinship building.
- This TRC Municipal Response Plan will address over 35 of the Calls to Action, through intentional short-term and immediate actions as well as long-term sustainable systemic changes. Administration is beginning the work that can be actioned now, under current resourcing and capacity.
- The Indigenous Framework is the vehicle that drives the TRC Municipal Response, the MMIWG2S+ Response and much of the work across the corporation with Indigenous communities. The Framework is what guides the work through the Indigenous knowledge of wahigicobi (kinship) as well as its guiding principles (relationships, agreements, celebrations and renewal, how the work is done through the four roles (listener, connector, advocate and partner) and why the work is done, through the seven commitments.
- The TRC Municipal Response Plan will be a living document, it will grow and continue to evolve as the City progresses in the journey of reconciliation and as the needs of Indigenous people in Edmonton change over time.
- Administration remains committed to transparency and working in partnership to build and rebuild relationships with Indigenous communities and honor the direction that has been set through the Indigenous Framework.

REPORT

Background

After participating in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Final Event in Edmonton in 2014, reviewing the 94 Calls to Action and the internal City of Edmonton departmental structure and corporate approach to Indigenous Relations, senior administrative leadership identified a need to develop an Indigenous Framework for the City of Edmonton to examine what the role of the municipality should be, and how to further advance reconciliation. An Indigenous Framework for the City of Edmonton was needed to align and cohere the various business lines of work happening across the corporation intersecting with the Indigenous communities' aspirations, opportunities, and challenges. The Indigenous Framework was adopted in 2021 and builds upon the City's existing efforts in supporting good relations with Indigenous peoples.

The Indigenous Framework has become the structural scaffolding for the City in taking further actions in making our services more responsive to the needs and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples that is inclusive of Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans,

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queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA) communities in Edmonton. The four roles and seven corporate commitments call on the City to use the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Calls to Action, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG & 2SLGBTQQIA) Calls for Justice, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the foundation for the continuing work ahead towards reconciliation and right relations. The development of a specific Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action Municipal Response Plan will be aligned to, and a supportive beam in the structure of the Indigenous Framework. The representation of this approach is outlined in the diagram in Attachment 1.

Reconciliation, as defined in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is as follows:

“To the Commission, reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour.”

The City of Edmonton is committed to advancing towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through plans, programs, and projects advocated for and developed with the community. The City advances this work through partnerships with: a) local urban Indigenous organizations, b) Elders, community members and advocates, c) institutional / governmental partners, and d) First Nations, Métis communities and the representative organizations of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

Critical to the development of Administration’s plans is a close relationship with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and an understanding of the role they play within their communities. The Indigenous worldviews they share have been an important part of the development and implementation of the Indigenous Framework, and will continue as Administration implements our responses to the TRC Calls to Action, Missing and Murdered Women, Girls Calls for Justice (MMIWG & 2SLGBTQQIA), and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Approach to the TRC Municipal Response Plan

In March 2022, the City Manager appointed a Senior Executive Advisor for Indigenous Relations who was tasked with the creation of a municipal response to the TRC. A project plan was developed that included internal and external engagement, Elder feedback, as well as a jurisdictional scan with a selection of municipalities across Canada, including Calgary, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Vancouver, Toronto, Fort McMurray, Winnipeg, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

As a result of the extensive engagement that occurred in the development of the Indigenous Framework, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing community check-ins during Indigenous Framework implementation, community feedback from that process was also used to inform the TRC Municipal Response Plan. At this stage, only the Indigenous Framework team and the Indigenous Framework Elders have reviewed a draft document. However, this plan will be a living

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document with ongoing iterations based on the feedback, evolution, and needs of the community.

During the summer of 2022, six Canadian municipalities were asked about their local responses to the TRC calls to Action. Five of the municipalities had formal TRC action plans and one had Council issued instructions. All had been making progress on the action plans, and many had taken similar steps such as Indigenous awareness classes, Indigenous hiring programs or Indigenous procurement policies. Many faced the same challenges of not enough financial or human resources. All stressed the importance of creating and maintaining relationships as foundational to addressing the Calls to Action.

Four major themes from community engagement have been identified for action under the TRC Municipal Response Plan that align with the MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA themes: Awareness, Addressing, Resurgence, and Advocacy. Under each of these themes, Administration has begun to identify priority actions that will begin immediately or over the medium to long-term to address the 94 Calls to Action. Attachment 2 includes a high level overview of each pillar and examples of the types of actions Council and community can expect of Administration as the plan is implemented.

Examples of Commitments in the TRC Municipal Response Plan

While the detailed actions for each of the pillars are still under development and require additional engagement and validation internally and externally, the table below outlines examples of how Administration will proceed with the plan.

Awareness Actions Public education and training to enhance awareness and understanding of the impacts of residential schools and colonization have had on Indigenous communities (in particular women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA).	TRC Alignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indigenous Awareness Training ● Online Learning Events through the Indigenous Framework Department Committees 	TRC #57
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investment in Research to the holistic health of Indigenous People in Edmonton 	TRC #18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elevate Indigenous Sport in Edmonton via the Alberta Indigenous Games, Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta, the Nikaniw Indigenous Swimming Program and telling the story of Indigenous Athletes. 	TRC #87-90
Addressing Actions Specific actions and changes to the systems, policies, and procedures that the municipality is responsible for working in partnership to support positive outcomes and lived experiences for Indigenous Peoples.	TRC Alignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on an ongoing basis, including the commitment for learning, reflection, relationship building and community connection. 	TRC #80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of an Indigenous Grant Program (that specifically addresses prevention and intervention funding needs outlined in the TRC Calls to Action and MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice). 	Multiple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementation of the Indigenous Framework Department Action Plans (actions specifically for each department to fulfill the Indigenous Framework). 	TRC #47

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Resurgence Actions Funding and partnerships with Indigenous communities to support the reclamation of culture, knowledge, language and autonomy.	TRC Alignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue Indigenous Naming Projects (use of ward names, renaming of neighbourhoods/transit stations, using Indigenous language in signage) 	TRC #13 & 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creating welcoming and inclusive spaces for Indigenous ceremony (e.g. Fire Pit at City Hall, kihciy aisky, PĪYĒSĪW WĀSKĀHIKAN at Edmonton Public Library, etc.) 	TRC #21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increasing sponsorship funding available to the Indigenous community for key TRC programs and services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indigenous sport ○ Indigenous art and cultural revitalization ○ Indigenous language 	Multiple
Advocacy Actions Promote thoughtful discussions in our relationships with other governments, organizations, businesses and education institutions about the impact of our collaboration on reconciliation.	TRC Alignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities to work with intergovernmental partners in ways that advance reconciliation 	multiple

Budget/Financial Implications

In order to support additional actions and to progress on the City's journey of reconciliation, resourcing becomes a critical element of success. Administration will bring forward a funded service package for the 2023-2026 operating budget deliberations for the TRC Implementation to advance work on priority actions. This service package aligns closely with the Council requested service package for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls response.

The service package is focused on both immediate and specific action as well as long-term actions that allow flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of Edmonton's Indigenous community. Community's needs change and evolve over time. As the City advances in our journey of reconciliation the work will need to shift. This plan will build in sustainable ways to support the community, meeting them where they are at, when they need it.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT

This TRC Municipal Response Plan was created through the use of extensive engagement in multiple areas such as:

- The original sharing and stories through the Commission that resulted in the 94 Calls to Action
- Ongoing Indigenous Framework Community Conversations and Elder engagement
- Engagement for MMIWG2S+ report that identified Awareness, Addressing, and Resurgence
- Mayors Roundtable in June of 2022
- Informal discussions with Elders and Community members, organizations during Pope's Visit

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- Work of City Manager's Office to explore concept of "Advocacy"

The draft plan has been shared with the Indigenous Framework Elders and the Corporate Committee for initial feedback and has been met with a positive response. With the Indigenous Framework woven throughout the plan, there's a symbolic connection between all the pieces of work and an interconnectedness that will continue to be nurtured.

The work is ongoing, the relationships are ongoing, and Administration will be working together across the corporation and with the community to ensure the work continues to be responsive to the needs and voices of Indigenous Edmontonians.

GBA+

The development of the TRC Calls to Action Final Report and the MMIWG Calls for Justice Final Report mitigate and/or remove barriers that Indigenous people and in particular, Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people, experience within the systems that make up our society. The TRC Municipal Response Plan outlines actions aimed specifically at:

- Increasing awareness, understanding and learning about Indigenous people, culture and historic experiences of colonialism, racism and discrimination.
- Addressing the needs and barriers experienced by Indigenous people within the municipal government systems to improve and enhance programs and services that directly address the needs of Indigenous Edmontonians.
- Investing in the resurgence of Indigenous people, culture and language in the city through empowering and creating welcoming and thriving spaces for Edmonton's diverse Indigenous population.
- Advocating to Edmontonians, government partners and community partners to take action on the changes called for in the 94 Calls to Action.

Alongside the MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA response, the TRC Response Plan will take careful note of where sub-populations will need prioritized or more specifically defined actions that meet the lived experience of those who have not been considered equally in government policy, programs and services as other population groups.

ATTACHMENTS

1. At a Glance - Indigenous Framework: Our Guide to Reconciliation
2. At a Glance - TRC Municipal Response Plan
3. (PRIVATE) - DRAFT Municipal Response Plan