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Truth & Reconciliation (TRC) Municipal Response Plan

Edmonton

Item 7.5
October 31/November 2, 2022
City Council

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside today, Treaty 6 Territory.

We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Dene, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples.

We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

Relationships in this Work

**Needs Based
(Service Providers;
Non - Profits)**

**Rights Based
(Nations, Rights Based
Tribal, Métis, and Inuit
Organizations)**

**Institutional /
Governmental (GOA,
Federal Government,
Educational partners)**

**Elders & Matriarchs
Grassroots Community
Advocates**

History of the TRC Municipal Response Plan

- **The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the National Events**
- **The TRC Final Report with 94 Calls to Action in 2015**
- **Indigenous Framework and Commitment from then Mayor, Council, and the Executive Leadership Team**
- **2022 City Manager renewed commitment to action, elevating the work of the TRC Municipal Response Plan to the Office of the City Manager**
 - Reconciliation is a priority for the Executive Leadership Team and City Council

APPROACH TO RECONCILIATION

What Guides the Work?
Grounded in Kinship
Indigenous Framework Guiding Principles
Relationships
Agreements
Celebrations
Renewal



wahigicobi
Indigenous Framework

How do we do the work?

Indigenous Framework Roles

Listener
Connector
Advocate
Partner

Why we do the work?

Indigenous Framework Seven Commitments
TRC, MMIWG2S+,
UNDRIP, Safe &
Welcoming Spaces,
Eliminate Racism, Remove
Systemic Barriers

Learnings from Other Jurisdictions

- **7 municipalities were interviewed, plus an interview with Federation of Canadian Municipalities**
- **Common themes:**
 - The TRC Plans provide greater exposure for the work, authority to make progress, and demonstrate accountability.
 - Responding to the TRC, MMIWG2S+ and/or UNDRIP often requires more work than current resources are able to manage - both internally and with external partners.
 - Each municipality identified priority actions within their plans that make sense for their local context; many of which we see in our plan as well.
 - Measurement and evaluation is something each municipality to attempting to create specific to these plans

Community Voices

- **The pillars of the TRC Municipal Response Plan were informed by ongoing feedback and engagement through:**
 - The original sharing and stories through the Commission that resulted in the 94 Calls to Action
 - Indigenous Framework Community Conversations and Elder engagement
 - Engagement for MMIWG2S+ report that identified Awareness, Addressing, and Resurgence
 - Mayors Roundtable in June of 2022
 - Discussions with Elders and Community members, organizations during Pope's Visit
 - Work of City Manager's Office to explore concept of "Advocacy"
- **Early validation of the approach for the TRC Municipal Response Plan**
 - Indigenous Framework Elders
 - Indigenous Framework Corporate Committee
 - City Manager's Office
- **Ongoing relationship building and working together to keep the plan relevant and responsive.**

TRC Municipal Response Plan

AWARENESS

Public education and training to enhance awareness and understanding of the impacts that residential schools and colonization have had on Indigenous communities (in particular women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA).

- Training and education for city staff
- Learning and celebrating with Indigenous communities
- Targeted education/awareness campaigns
- Partner with education sector to enhance education at all levels
- Support for cultural and awareness events
- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Residential School Survivors Monument

ADDRESSING

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.

- Funding prevention, education/awareness, and access to priority programming
- Sustainable funding and resources to implement the Indigenous Framework, TRC Plan, and MMIWG2S+ Strategy
- Equitable data and transparency
- Funding for Indigenous led organizations that support families, women, children, and Elderly with prevention and intervention programs

RESURGENCE

Funding and partnerships with Indigenous communities to support the reclamation of culture, knowledge, language and autonomy.

- Funding for the revitalization of Indigenous cultures, celebrations, and spirituality
- Support reclamation of names changed by the Residential School System
- Protect & nurture cultural practices and languages
- Provide safe & dedicated ceremony and cultural spaces
- Recognize Indigenous Languages
- Support for Indigenous entrepreneurship and professional development

ADVOCACY

Many of the Calls to Action are outside of the jurisdiction of the City of Edmonton. However, we can play a role as an advocate to key partners to respond and commit to change.

Work with community, institutional, and government partners to respond to the Calls to Action, including in areas such as:

- Child Welfare
- Education
- Health
- Justice & Legal system
- Church
- Media, Sport, Business Industry

Integrate reconciliation into discussions with external partners. For example:

- Language Rights
- UNDRIP
- Training for public servants
- Commemoration

What to expect for Budget 2023-2026

- **Administration will bring forward a funded service package which:**
 - Supports many of the actions outlined in the TRC Municipal Response Plan (and aligns with the MMIWG2S+ Action Plan)
 - Allows for immediate actions to be funded, as well as responsiveness to needs of Edmonton's Indigenous community as they may evolve over time

Next Steps

- **Further defining the actions under each of the pillars**
- **Communications Plan**
 - *Accountability, information sharing, story telling*
- **Ongoing connection with ELT and Elders**
- **Working on alignment with Indigenous Framework, MMIWG2S+ Plan, and the Anti-Racism Strategy.**

Thank you!

Edmonton