

## Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) - Municipal Response Plan Update

### RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed for the remaining 2021-2025 Council Term to participate in the Enoch Stewardship Roundtable; and
2. September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, be declared a civic holiday in the City of Edmonton.

<b>Requested Council Action</b>	Decision required		
<b>ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle</b>	<b>ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals</b>		
<b>CONNECTED</b> This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.	<b>Healthy City</b>		
<b>City Plan Values</b>	BELONG. LIVE. THRIVE.		
<b>City Plan Big City Move(s)</b>	Inclusive and compassionate	<b>Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities</b>	Community safety and well-being
<b>Corporate Business Plan</b>	Transforming for the future		
<b>Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework</li> <li>• Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Action Plan</li> <li>• Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy</li> <li>• Anti-Racism Strategy</li> </ul>		
<b>Related Council Discussions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCM01477 - TRC Municipal Response Plan</li> <li>• CS01218 - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Action Plan</li> <li>• CR_4440 - Enoch Cree Nation Memorandum of Understanding</li> </ul>		

### Executive Summary

- At the October 31/November 2 City Council Meeting, City Council approved the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan.

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- Through the 2023-2026 Budget Process, City Council approved a service package for the TRC Municipal Response Plan to provide resources to advance priority actions and projects that enable Administration to address the 94 Calls to Action.
- This report provides an update on multiple actions the City has taken to advance our commitment to the TRC Calls to Action and as outlined in the TRC Municipal Response Plan. Attachment 1 provides a detailed overview of the progress to date on 21 of the Calls to Action.
- In order to advance two particular initiatives, Administration is asking for City Council decision on:
  - Appointing two Council Sponsors to the Enoch MOU Stewardship Table
  - Declaring September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a civic holiday.

## REPORT

The City of Edmonton developed and committed to the Indigenous Framework in 2021. This framework, and the guiding concept of wahigicobi (“kinship”), is the thread that connects all of the work that Administration is advancing towards truth and reconciliation. The development of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan adheres to commitment #1 in the Indigenous Framework.

### Progress Update on the TRC Municipal Response Plan

The TRC Municipal Response Plan includes nearly one hundred specific actions Administration will take to begin addressing 38 out of the 94 Calls to Action. The Calls to Action that have not yet been assigned actions are those that are outside of municipal jurisdiction. Through the advocacy pillar and a critical analysis of how the city can contribute to those Calls to Actions, additional responses will be developed and included into the plan over the implementation period.

Since City Council approved the TRC Municipal Response Plan (October 31/November 2, City Council, OCM01477), Administration has initiated new work alongside maintaining ongoing commitments that align with the commitments of the Calls to Action. This update outlines the multiple ways that Administration has moved forward in addressing 21 of the Calls to Action. A detailed breakdown of these actions can be found in Attachment 1.

In addition to these updates, Administration is seeking advice and approval from City Council on the following two items:

### Enoch MOU Stewardship Table

The City of Edmonton and Enoch Cree Nation (ECN) are immediate neighbours, sharing an 8 km border on the City’s western edge. The City and ECN entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)<sup>1</sup> on March 10, 2017. This relationship agreement is a non-legally binding commitment to work together as neighbours on a variety of issues, in a mutually-respectful manner through a defined set of principles and objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Edmonton and Enoch Cree Nation  
<https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/PDF/MOUEnochCreeNationCOE.pdf?cb=1677792396>

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Since signing the MOU, the City and ECN have collaborated on and/or held dialogues on a range of topics, including Big Island Provincial Park, a renewed Fire Services Agreement and collaboration of Edmonton Fire Rescue Services and Enoch Fire Department, coordination and information-sharing on land-use planning adjacent to each jurisdiction, improved transit and recreation access, prospective expanded transit service to ECN, development of the Urban Reserve Strategy and Indigenous Procurement Framework, and more. Enoch Cree Nation is a unique and important partner with the City.

An important dimension of the MOU is the MOU Stewardship Table, a relationship-building, information sharing and coordinating body that ensures the stewardship of the Enoch-Edmonton relationship. The Table meets approximately quarterly, and is updating the Terms of Reference.

As per the Terms of Reference, participation in this Table includes both staff and elected officials from both ECN and Edmonton. A Council representative and one member of administration from both ECN and the City have been designated as leads and known as *Champions* in the past (known going forward as *Sponsors*). The value of having City Councillor(s) appointed to this work is that there is always a connection from this unique Edmonton-Enoch relationship building work back to City Council, and a champion for this relationship at the council level.

There will always be opportunities for other members of City Council to take part in social or cultural learning opportunities with Enoch Cree Nation and its Chief and Council. However, Administration would like to recommend that City Council put forward two Council Sponsors for this Stewardship Table.

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action #80 called upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour 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.

In June 2021, the federal government passed *Bill C-5* declaring September 30 as a federal holiday, observed as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As a federal holiday, the designation only applies to federally regulated workplaces such as banks, federal public servants, and airlines.

That same year, Administration began recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by providing City employees with a day off with pay, where operationally feasible, to reflect and engage in reconciliation activities. Recognizing the importance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and as part of Administration and Council's ongoing commitment to reconciliation, Administration recommends that Council exercise its authority under the *Municipal Government Act* to declare September 30 a civic holiday in Edmonton.

### Budget/Financial Implications

As part of the 2023 to 2026 Budget, City Council approved a service package for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan which is being actively used to fund

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the short-term actions and begin actioning the mid-to-long term actions outlined in the Municipal Response Plan. At this point in time, no additional funding or resources is required.

### Legal Implications

In Alberta, September 30 is not recognized as a statutory holiday under provincial legislation. As a result, rules that apply to statutory holidays, such as the requirement to provide a paid day off or appropriate compensation for employees that must attend work, do not automatically apply. Employers and other entities can choose to adopt these practices, but are not obligated to.

Under the *Municipal Government Act*, Council can declare up to two days in a year as a civic holiday. Declaring a day as a civic holiday is not equivalent to a provincial declaration of a day as a statutory holiday and does not create any legal obligations on employers or others. However, it is a method for Council to formally declare the significance of a day within the City.

## COMMUNITY INSIGHT

The TRC Municipal Response Plan was created through the use of extensive engagement in multiple areas including:

- Honouring 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 the MMIWG 2SLGBTQQIA Action Plan report that identified Awareness, Addressing, and Resurgence;
- Mayors Roundtable in June of 2022; and
- Informal discussions with Elders and Community members and organizations during the Papal Visit in 2022.

Administration is preparing for the Indigenous Framework Annual Gathering in Q2, which will include an internal facing engagement as well as a report back to the community on the progress the City has made on implementation of the framework. These events are anticipated to take place in June 2023 as part of National Indigenous History Month.

### 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 experience within the systems that make up our society. The TRC Municipal Response Plan outlines actions that Edmonton, as a community, will take to remove barriers and enhance inclusion and access to City programs and services. These actions occur through a community-informed four pillar approach:

- Increasing awareness, understanding and learning about Indigenous people, cultures, and their 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.

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- Investing in the resurgence of Indigenous peoples, cultures, and languages 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.

As Administration advances through the TRC Municipal Response Plan actions, commitment has been made to return quarterly to City Council as well as to report annually on the progress to date. The Indigenous Relations Office is currently recruiting for an Indigenous Evaluation Specialist to provide support to these files to capture data and tell the story of impact in a meaningful way.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment 1 - OCM01781 Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) - Municipal Response Plan Update - Action Update