

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) MUNICIPAL RESPONSE PLAN

### Q3 Update

<b>Recommendation</b>			
That the December 4, 2023, Office of the City Manager report OCM02057, be received for information.			
<b>Requested Action</b>		Information Only	
<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. ACCESS. PRESERVE. CREATE.		
<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 Indigenous Framework</li> <li>• Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan</li> <li>• Anti-Racism Strategy</li> <li>• Community Safety &amp; Well-being Strategy</li> </ul>		
<b>Related Council Discussions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 4, 2023 CPSC - CS01958 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Action Plan Update</li> <li>• May 31, 2023 CPSC - CS01826 Indigenous Framework Annual Update (and TRC Q2 Update)</li> <li>• March 14/15 2023 CPSC - OCM01781 TRC Q1 Update</li> <li>• November 21, 2022 CPSC - CS01218 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Action Plan</li> <li>• October 31/November 2, 2022 City Council – OCM01477 Truth and Reconciliation Municipal Response Plan</li> <li>• March 21, 2022 CPSC - CS00434 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry Final Report Update</li> <li>• February 17, 2021 CPSC - CR_8386 Missing and Murdered Indigenous</li> </ul>		

### Executive Summary

- In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released a final report with 94 Calls to Action to “redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.”<sup>1</sup>
- The City of Edmonton developed a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan, which identified 39 of the 94 Calls to Action to commit to action.
- Progress in truth and reconciliation is fluid, and the activities outlined in the plan progress throughout the year in the various pillars (awareness, addressing, resurgence and advocacy).
- The City of Edmonton remains committed to advancing progress in as many of the Calls to Action as possible. This will be accomplished over time, leaning into the roles outlined in the Indigenous Framework: listener, partner, connector and advocate.

### REPORT

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released a final report with 94 Calls to Action, which calls upon all orders of government to “redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.”

For over a century, the process of assimilation has negatively impacted Indigenous Peoples, accounting to physical, biological and cultural genocide<sup>2</sup>. The accounts provided by Residential School Survivors directed the government, communities and Canadians to first learn and unlearn the truths of Canadian history and then take action (reconciliation). The City of Edmonton’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan is a culmination of multiple actions or activities that will, over time, create the meaningful and sustainable system change called for in the TRC Final Report. The City of Edmonton has identified 39 of the 94 Calls to Action where the City can develop and implement tangible activities that will advance commitment to action. Of the 39 actions:

- three are completed (or completed and ongoing)
- 31 have actions contributing to the Call to Action underway (or underway and ongoing)
- five have not yet started

For a list of the 39 committed Calls to Action, refer to Attachment 1 for a high-level outline of the activities that are advancing each of these Calls. The remaining 55 Calls to Action continue to be part of ongoing advocacy efforts. Administration will continue to explore additional actions the municipality can take to address the Calls that are generally seen to be outside municipal jurisdiction.

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<sup>1</sup> Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action:

[https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Honoring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

[https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Executive\\_Summary\\_English\\_Web.pdf](https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf)

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) MUNICIPAL RESPONSE PLAN - Q3 UPDATE

The activities in the TRC Municipal Response plan are organized with the same pillars identified for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous, Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples Action Plan. The following provides an update on key activities that occurred throughout the third quarter. For the continuous quarterly update on the progress for all activities year to date, refer to Attachment 2.

### Awareness

The awareness pillar includes public education and staff 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+). Highlights from Q3 include:

- Training provided specifically in relation to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This was achieved through partnering with the Edmonton Public Library to provide a public four-week MMIWG2S Calls for Justice Reading Circle, as well as an internal MMIWG 2SLGBTQQIA+ Learning Session for city staff provided by the Indigenous Framework Community of Practice.
- The Community Recreation and Culture Branch created a workshop from the Indigenous Framework (Tool Kit #1). This session has been provided to over 1,200 CRC staff, with resounding appreciation and support for the program. The workshop will continue through the remainder of 2023.
- Multiple awareness building activities occurred leading up to September 30, including “Every Child Matters” banners that were displayed in Churchill Square, the Survivors’ Flag was displayed in City Hall, and a crosswalk and two utility boxes were provided as canvases for local art to reflect the commemoration of the day.
- The City of Edmonton continues to support and fund community-based education and awareness opportunities, such as the Indigenous Experience at K-Days, Red Road Healing Society Transformative Reconciliation Gathering, Nunavut Day Celebration, Indigenous Peoples Experience at Fort Edmonton Park on September 30, and YWCA Standing Together: Orange Shirt Day Community Walk.

### Addressing

The addressing pillar outlines 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. Highlights from Q3 include:

- Launching of an operating grant program specifically for Indigenous-led organizations. Applications opened in September, and were accepted until mid-October. The grant applications will be assessed and funding provided before the end of the year.
- Recruitment continues for the Indigenous Relations Office (IRO), hiring one position and posting recruitment for two others within the quarter. The IRO has two positions remaining to be filled with the hopes of a full team to begin in 2024. The Community Recreation and Culture branch also began recruitment for the Nîkânîw Indigenous Aquatic Leadership program.
- The City of Edmonton (Root for Trees and the Indigenous Relations Office) partnered with the 3rd Annual Orange Shirt Day Run and Walk to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Representatives from the Indigenous Framework participated on the day,

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connecting with attendees about the work at the City and handing out the 94 Calls to Action booklets. City staff and leadership attended the event, participated in the Apple Round Dance and visited the multiple community-based booths at the gathering.

- Efforts have continued in multiple priority files at the City of Edmonton such as Indigenous-led housing, the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy, and the Anti-Racism Strategy implementation, which contribute positively to the 94 Calls to Action and the 231 Calls for Justice.

### Resurgence

The resurgence pillar is focused on funding and partnerships with Indigenous communities to support the reclamation of culture, knowledge, language and autonomy. In Q3, the City prioritized:

- Increasing the amount of Indigenous artwork and visuals within City spaces, such as: the publicly displayed Indigenous Framework Art in City Hall, the LRT Art Project with the Edmonton Arts Council and bus shelter artwork.
- Supporting and funding community-based events, gatherings and traditions, such as: Enoch Cree Nation Pow Wow, Alberta Indigenous Games and Master Alberta Indigenous Games, Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations 30 Year Celebration Competition Pow Wow, Poundmakers' Lodge Treatment Centre Pow Wow, kihcihkaw askî-Sacred Land grand opening and Belcourt Brousseau Métis Awards.
- Continued efforts to enhance training and employment opportunities at the City of Edmonton for Indigenous Peoples, including: Camp Inspire for Indigenous Peoples, Talent Diversity Initiative and Indigenous-specific positions, Council Youth Internship, and the upcoming Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Internship. This includes requiring experience working with and knowledge of the Indigenous community and anti-racism as assets for employment for some roles.

### Advocacy

The City of Edmonton continues to advance advocacy efforts to the provincial and federal government related to key priorities of the Indigenous communities in and around Edmonton. In addition to this, advocacy efforts continue in partnership with the City's memorandum of understanding partners and community-based organizations to advance common goals and priorities. An example of this includes:

- A signed letter of intent between the City of Edmonton and the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations to work together to address Indigenous housing needs in Edmonton.

Much of the work towards truth and reconciliation happens fluidly throughout the year, with planning occurring in one quarter but execution of the action coming to fruition in another quarter. Following this report, Administration will continue to provide City Council with updates of key milestones, and will be developing and updating a public dashboard on a quarterly basis. Going forward, an annual report will be provided, in conjunction with the Indigenous Framework annual reports each year.

### Budget/Financial Implications

In December 2022, Council approved a funded service package for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan with funding from the Community Safety and Well-being funds (\$1.11 million in 2023, \$1.39 million in 2024, and \$1.01 million in 2025 and 2026) to implement priority actions of the plan.

This service package aligns closely, and is integrated with, the MMIWG 2SLGBTQQA+ service package. The 2023-2026 approved service packages for kihcihkaw askî-Sacred Land and the Affordable Housing Strategy are also strongly aligned with the TRC Municipal Response Plan and the MMIWG 2SLGBTQQA+ Action Plan.

### Community Insight

The City of Edmonton's TRC Municipal Response Plan was developed based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report and 94 Calls to Action. This final report was shaped following more than 150,000 visits to the seven National Events held across the country. Many diverse Indigenous voices are the foundation for the TRC 94 Calls to Action and the 231 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice. Administration is embedding its response in these Calls with the implementation of the plan being guided by the Indigenous Framework.

The four pillars of the TRC Municipal Response Plan (awareness, addressing, resurgence and advocacy) were developed as the result of comprehensive consultations for the development of the MMIWG 2SLGBTQQA+ Action Plan. This response plan intentionally is aligned with those recommendations to ensure community voice and direction is demonstrated in both plans.

Each of the City's commitments is being tracked in connection with the defined roles from the Indigenous Framework as well as which of the seven commitments from the Indigenous Framework that the activity aligns with. Administration is embedding its approach in the direction given by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Final Reports and the voices of local Indigenous Peoples who provided guidance in the development of the Indigenous Framework. Administration's response will continue to evolve and commitment continues to work in partnership with Indigenous communities.

### GBA+

The TRC Municipal Response Plan has been built to mitigate and/or remove barriers that Indigenous people experience within the systems that are within Administration's scope of control and influence. Those Calls to Action that are not within the scope, are part of the advocacy pillar, where partnerships and relationships with other institutions are leveraged to work together to address these Calls. With the plan being guided by community-informed pillars, the actions have been embedded in direction of those most impacted.

**Attachments**

1. Truth and Reconciliation Commision Municipal Response Plan - Update by TRC Call to Action
2. Truth and Reconciliation Commision Municipal Response Plan - Q3 Action Update