

INDIGENOUS FRAMEWORK AND RECONCILIATION UPDATE

2023/2024 Update

Recommendation			
That the September 16, 2024, Community and Public Services report CS02266, be received for information.			
Requested Action		Information only	
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle		ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals	
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.		Healthy City	
City Plan Values	BELONG. LIVE. THRIVE. CREATE.		
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"> • City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework • Truth and Reconciliation Commission Municipal Response Plan • Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Action Plan • Anti-Racism Strategy 		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 4, 2023, Community Services report CS01958, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Action Plan Update • December 4, 2023, Office of the City Manager report OCM02057, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Council Report Q3 Action Update • May 31, 2023, Community Services report CS01826, Indigenous Framework - Annual Update Council Report (and TRC Q2 Update) • March 14/15, 2023, Office of the City Manager report OCM01781, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) - Municipal Response Q1 Action Update 		

Executive Summary

- The Indigenous Framework is the foundation for the City of Edmonton’s approach to reconciliation. The City of Edmonton’s approach is also guided by the Council-approved Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Action Plan.
- Together, these plans shape the City’s understanding of and actions to address the needs of Indigenous Peoples and communities in Edmonton as expressed through their voices and lived experiences. This information report highlights Administration’s progress on advancing the seven Indigenous Framework corporate commitments, the 91 commitments in the TRC Municipal Response Plan and the 26 commitments in the MMIR Action Plan.
- To better understand the impact of this work for both the City and Indigenous communities, Administration is developing an evaluation model grounded in Indigenous worldviews to support knowledge translation, decision-making and accountability in the City’s reconciliation efforts.

REPORT

The City of Edmonton is committed to advancing its reconciliation journey by continuing to implement the Indigenous Framework, which guides Administration’s work to build strong and supportive relationships with Indigenous Peoples in and around Edmonton. The Indigenous Framework outlines four ways that each City employee can enact this initiative through everyday work — as listeners, connectors, partners and advocates. The Framework also includes seven commitments that articulate the corporation’s vision for honouring and enacting this initiative through policies, programs and services.

Through the first commitment of the Indigenous Framework, the City aims to “support the journey of reconciliation by applying the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a foundation for the Indigenous Framework.” These national and international documents provide direction that Administration adapts and implements at a local level.

The City’s overall approach to reconciliation includes four key components:

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Action Plan
- Indigenous Framework department action plans
- Relationship building and partnerships with Indigenous Nations

City staff integrate these plans and efforts to support a comprehensive approach to reconciliation that is guided by the concept of kinship - the Indigenous Framework’s founding principle.

The TRC Municipal Response Plan and MMIR Action Plan launched in the fall of 2022 to further the City’s reconciliation efforts in response to the final reports of the TRC¹ and the National

¹ <https://nctr.ca/records/reports/#trc-reports>

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inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls² respectively. These plans are also aligned with the Indigenous Framework and guided by four thematic pillars — Awareness, Addressing, Resurgence and Advocacy — created in conversations with community members to guide Administration's responses.

City Council has allocated funding to this portfolio through the Community Safety and Well-being budget. Specifically, this funding was provided for:

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Municipal Response Plan (\$4.5 million, 2023-2026)
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Action Plan (\$4.9 million, 2023-2026)

The funding advances priorities outlined in the plans such as:

- Advancing critical projects included in the TRC Municipal Response Plan
- Convening the Indigenous Framework Circle of Elders and Knowledge Holders
- Providing sponsorships and subsidies for community-led and partnered initiatives
- Operating grant for Indigenous-led Organizations
- Engaging with the Indigenous community on projects and initiatives
- Recognizing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Raising awareness about Indigenous issues and actions
- Supporting the Indigenous Framework Corporate Action Team and department action teams as they advance projects

This report includes updates on the City of Edmonton's efforts to implement the Indigenous Framework, the TRC Municipal Response Plan and the MMIR Action Plan.

Indigenous Framework Update

As the Indigenous Framework becomes more deeply adopted throughout the organization, departmental projects, programs and services gain strength. These initiatives include employee-led awareness building campaigns, program development, community relationship building, and policy and procedural change. To advance the seven corporate commitments, Indigenous Framework department action teams, supported by more than 100 City staff, identified more than 70 projects in 2023 and 2024.

In the spirit of kinship, some of this work involves organizing and supporting gatherings that bring together City staff and City Council with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Holders, organizations and community members to ensure the voices, priorities, teachings and experiences of Indigenous Peoples are informing the City's reconciliation efforts. Attachment 1 describes Administration's efforts in 2023 and during the first half of 2024 to build and nurture strong kinship relationships with Indigenous organizations and community members.

Administration is developing a culturally responsive Indigenous evaluation system that is rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems and prioritizes community voices to assess these reconciliation efforts. The projected timeline for this evaluation system is late 2025.

² https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Calls_for_Justice.pdf

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Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan Annual Update

The TRC Municipal Response Plan guides the City of Edmonton's response to the TRC calls to action through four thematic pillars (awareness, addressing, resurgence, advocacy). Alongside community partners, Administration pursues activities that address the priorities of Indigenous community members, promote resurgence of Indigenous cultures, advocate progress on TRC calls to action that are outside municipal jurisdiction and enhance public awareness of both the effects of residential schools and colonization.

As a living document designed to adapt to changing community concerns, the TRC Municipal Response Plan currently includes 91 commitments that respond to or were inspired by 39 calls to action of the TRC. Attachment 2 provides a summary of related projects undertaken throughout 2023 and during the first half of 2024. All TRC Municipal Response Plan developments are updated quarterly on the Truth and Reconciliation Dashboard, which is accessible through the City's TRC website³.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Action Plan Update

The MMIR Action Plan includes immediate and long-term commitments that respond to, or were inspired by, calls for justice identified through the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Similar to the TRC Municipal Response Plan and with capacity and resources to respond, the MMIR Action Plan is capable of adapting to changing community priorities. Attachment 3 provides a more detailed account of the City's progress on the MMIR Action Plan's commitments.

Community Insight

The City of Edmonton values the contributions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff, community members, organizations, Elders and Knowledge Holders as part of the ongoing implementation of the Indigenous Framework. Indigenous Framework Commitment No. 7 articulates Administration's dedication to maintaining transparency and accountability through efforts that "ensure Indigenous Peoples and City staff are informed and engaged, when appropriate, on actions the City of Edmonton takes in relation to the Indigenous Framework." As this initiative and the relationships it supports continue to grow, Administration is making efforts to respond to emerging community concerns. The Indigenous Framework, TRC Municipal Response Plan and MMIR Action Plan are living documents that will evolve through continued communication as these relationships mature.

In November 2023, the Indigenous Framework Corporate Action Team, which includes the chairs of each department action team, held two community check-in sessions attended by 44 Indigenous community members and partners to discuss departmental efforts to implement framework projects over the past year. These check-in sessions will continue in the Fall of 2024 with a gathering that provides Indigenous community members opportunities to share their perspectives on framework projects and emerging priorities. This feedback guides Administration

³ www.edmonton.ca/trc

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project teams that develop annual plans to advance the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework commitments.

Additionally, Administration coordinated a July 2024 engagement conference to seek the perspectives of Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders on priority projects connected to the TRC Municipal Response Plan. These projects included: 1) ceremonial fire pits, 2) the renaming of Government Centre station, 3) a residential school survivors commemoration and 4) Northeast River Valley Park. The feedback collected during this three-day conference will also guide staff teams advancing these projects in 2024 and 2025.

GBA+

Administration sought guidance from First Nations, Métis, Inuit and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members during the development of the Indigenous Framework, TRC Municipal Response Plan and MMIR Action Plan. This process, which continues throughout the implementation of these initiatives, recognizes that people have differing experiences based on their race, gender, age and other interconnected social categorizations.

Informed by Indigenous worldviews, the Indigenous Framework supports Administration's efforts to create a more inclusive and responsive city that appreciates the priorities of Indigenous community members. These perspectives include the voices of diverse Elders and Knowledge Holders who share Indigenous concepts of equity and intersectionality informed by local community concerns and rooted in both relationships and ceremony. Additionally, Indigenous Framework department action teams are responsible for providing a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) for projects related to programming and policy development.

Similarly, the TRC Municipal Response Plan and MMIR Action Plan work to address barriers Indigenous Peoples face in systems within Administration's purview. Created in conversation with diverse Indigenous community members, the four pillars guiding these plans include an advocacy component that involves working with institutions and other orders of government to advance calls to action and calls for justice outside municipal jurisdiction.

Attachments

1. Indigenous Framework 2023 Annual Report
2. Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan 2023/2024 Update
3. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Action Plan 2023/2024 Update
4. Indigenous Relations Office Preliminary Evaluation 2023