

NO: R177

COUNCIL DATE: September 13, 2021

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 9, 2021**

FROM: **City Manager**

FILE: **5080-01**

SUBJECT: **Indigenous Engagement in the City of Surrey**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse for 2021, the City's acknowledgement National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30 as generally described in this report; and
3. Direct staff to bring forward a Proclamation that declares September 30, 2021, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day in the City of Surrey to the next Regular Council meeting on September 27, 2021.

## INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Mayor & Council with information regarding work the City is currently doing to engage with Indigenous communities in Surrey to; bring awareness to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People ("UNDRIP") and its 94 calls to action; and to provide information on the City's actions taken to support its commitment to reconciliation.

## BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ("TRC") published its final report detailing the experiences and impacts of the residential school system, creating a historical record of its legacy and consequences. One outcome of the report was a document detailing 94 calls to action across a wide range of areas including child welfare, education, health, justice, language and culture (attached as Appendix "I").

In 2016, Council adopted the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee's ("SUILC") "All Our Relations: Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy" which identified 14 key findings related to the Indigenous population in Surrey (Corporate Report No. R100; 2016, included as Appendix "II").

In 2017, Council adopted the second phase of the All Our Relations Strategy and authorized staff to support SUILC in implementing recommendations for which the City can play a role. (Corporate Report No. R131; 2017, included as Appendix "III").

Later in 2017, Council endorsed a Report that adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People forming the framework for reconciliation in Surrey and responding to the Truth and Reconciliation's call to actions (Corporate Report No. R193; 2017, included as Appendix "IV").

In 2018, Council approved the Parks, Recreation & Culture Strategic Plan (2018-2027), a comprehensive document prioritizing facility and service development over a ten-year time frame. The Plan was informed by a thorough needs assessment, and an extensive, award-winning public engagement process. Numerous key objectives were identified as part of this plan, including a key Departmental objective (D3) regarding Indigenous Reconciliation. This objective is supported by numerous initiatives to help the City meet this objective.

Also in 2018, Council was provided with an update on the implementation of the All Our Relations Social Innovation Strategy. The report highlighted activities conducted by SUILC, as well as actions that were being taken by City departments to support the implementation of the strategy. (Corporate Report No. R182; 2018; included as Appendix "V").

## **DISCUSSION**

At the June 28, 2021, Council meeting, Council unanimously adopted a motion directing staff to fully consider the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reports "Call to Action" and those outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that apply solely or jointly to local government and other levels of government, and report back with a recommended course of action.

Since 2017 when the City adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People forming the framework for reconciliation in Surrey and responding to the Truth and Reconciliation's call to actions, the City has continued to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to reconciliation. The City has embedded the principals of reconciliation efforts into many aspects of its day to day work, activities and projects. All of the activities mentioned in this report respond specifically to Call to Action #43 which calls on the *"federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation"*.

The City continues to work collaboratively with Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation and Semiahmoo First and other Indigenous partners on a number of engagement initiatives. Initiatives are expansive and include special events, infrastructure upgrades, emergency management response coordination, public art projects, exhibitions at cultural institutions, and sport hosting. In terms of the urban Indigenous community, the City continues to collaborate with the SUILC. A brief overview of some of those initiatives is provided below.

## **Actions to Support Indigenous Engagement and Truth and Reconciliation in Surrey**

### *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day (September 30)*

SUILC in partnership with the City and SFU Surrey, honours Orange Shirt Day with an annual ceremony. The event typically features guest speakers and drumming to honour the resilience and bravery of residential school survivors and their families and remembers the children who did not make it home. On this day, the City also encourages staff to wear orange to support this important initiative. SUILC is in the process of planning an event for this fall's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

On July 7, 2021, the Federal Government declared September 30<sup>th</sup> a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten.

The intent of this day is to provide Canadians the opportunity to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event. It is recommended that the City observe this day as a holiday in 2021. If supported, it is proposed that recreation facilities remain open as per typical holiday hours, as well as some limited services at City Hall (Planning & Development and Property Tax counters) in order to minimize disruption.

Staff are engaging with other levels of government and municipalities to develop a long-term practice for recognition of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

### *National Indigenous Peoples Day Event*

The National Indigenous Peoples Day ("NIPD") event on June 21<sup>st</sup> of each year recognizes the contributions, culture, and traditions of Indigenous people in Canada. In partnership with Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association ("FRAFCA"), a Surrey based National Indigenous Peoples Day event has occurred annually since 2016. The event was initially hosted at the Bridgeview Community Centre and in 2018 it was relocated to Holland Park to accommodate the success and growth of the event. This annual event is hosted by Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, Semiahmoo First Nation and Nova Metis Heritage Association, in collaboration with the Planning Committee which consists of representatives from, Fraser Health Authority, Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council ("ISPARC"), RCMP, Surrey School District, Ministry of Children and Family Development ("MCFD"), SUILC, Plea Community Services, Metis Family Services, and the City of Surrey. The intention of Surrey's NIPD is to recognize and celebrate the diverse local and urban indigenous peoples that live, work, and play. This event focuses on health, language, art, and cultural sharing that is inclusive of all Indigenous peoples in our community to allow space for people to be connected and respected.

### *Indigenous Hall at Museum of Surrey*

The Indigenous Hall is a space of gathering, storytelling and exhibition. All activities and changes in the gallery are approved, through consultation, by Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation and Semiahmoo First Nation. Engagement and conversations with Indigenous peoples in Surrey is key to ensuring their voice is heard in all related activities at Museum of Surrey. 2021 initiatives include an exhibition in the Indigenous Hall about Chief Dan George, a virtual speakers series

with four Black and Indigenous academics in February (Black History Month), and letters of recommendation for Provincial Reconciliation Awards from Semiahmoo First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation.

### *Indigenous Childcare Opportunities*

Staff are currently working in partnership with the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association and Métis Family Services to develop Indigenous Child Care Centres at Hawthorne Park and with the new expansion of Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre (City Centre Sports Complex). The projects are contingent on provincial funding through BC's Child Care New Spaces Fund and will provide culturally safe and trauma informed wrap around services for all children Indigenous and Non-Indigenous with priority given to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and families in Surrey and the surrounding areas.

### *Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee ("SUILC")*

Formed in 2015, SUILC is a coalition of organizations that have come together to advocate for the more than 16,000 Indigenous people living in Surrey. Its members include all Indigenous organizations operating in Surrey, and non-Indigenous organizations that have a significant connection to the Indigenous population such as Fraser Health, the Surrey School District and the City. SUILC's work is funded by a variety of federal, provincial and foundation contracts and grants. SUILC is not a legal entity and so the City, through Social Planning, supports SUILC by managing contacts and funding on its behalf. According to SUILC, "*this arrangement lowers the administrative burden on our Committee members and allows us to focus on getting projects done for the benefit of the community... We believe that the relationship with the City is one of our strengths*".

### *Heritage Services Initiatives*

Staff are working closely with Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, and Semiahmoo First Nation to complete design development and programming models for two Indigenous Carving Centres: one in South Surrey, one in North Surrey. A comprehensive guide to the Indigenous Belongings in the Civic Artifact Collection has been completed and respectfully shared with Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, and Semiahmoo First Nation with the intent to begin discussions on repatriation and appropriate care. Staff are also working on design development/concepts for heritage interpretation for the upcoming Nicomekl Riverfront Park with each First Nation.

### *Water/Sewer Services Agreement*

In 2018, the City in collaboration with Semiahmoo First Nation, developed a Water and Sanitary servicing agreement that allows SFN to purchase water from the City and convey sanitary sewage to the City's system to meet the day to day needs of their reserve population. The water service connection has been completed and water is being provided to SFN while the sanitary service is nearing completion. Staff are also working with SFN to develop agreements for other City services for Council's consideration.

### *Emergency Support Services*

The City of Surrey Emergency Support Service (“ESS”) program led by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department along with Emergency Management BC (“EMBC”) and First Nations Emergency Services Society (“FNESS”) works closely with First Nations communities, Indigenous Services Canada (“ISC”) and various other stakeholders, to support the successful implementation of Emergency Management for First Nations communities in the province. The City has supported the Emergency Support Services Modernization Project through the implementation of the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (“ERA”) tool, used to improve the registration process and delivery of ESS. In July 2021, City staff have delivered multiple trainings to First Nation communities to support the ongoing wildfire responses. ESS is dedicated to ensuring First Nations are fully integrated into the Province of British Columbia’s emergency management structure and working to collaborate with First Nations to identify and support eligible response and recovery activities.

### *Diversity and Inclusion*

The City’s website features a [Diversity and Inclusion](#) page that shares the City’s commitment to reconciliation, diversity, inclusion, social equity, and anti-racism. It provides multiple links to information and resources such as the Surrey Urban Indigenous Strategy, the City’s policy on Human Rights, the Official Community plan and its commitment to build an inclusive city, funding sources such as the Cultural Grants program, and special events that demonstrate the City values diversity and inclusivity.

### *Libraries Land Acknowledgment and Staff Training*

A key strategic initiative for Surrey Libraries is to ‘Grow understanding of indigenous history and culture to aid reconciliation.’ Each Library Board meeting begins with a land acknowledgment, and trustees recently participated in a cultural awareness session delivered by Skookum Lab of SUILC. Staff training is also prioritized through sessions such as the KAIROS Blanket Exercise with Bonnie Van Hatten of Sk’elep Reconciliation and ‘A village around every family: Decolonization in our Libraries’ by Kathi Camilleri. Other initiatives include:

### *Libraries Collections & Displays*

Surrey Libraries invests in indigenous print and digital collections on topics such as history, language, culture, and reconciliation. It also recently purchased SUMMA, an online digital resource featuring Canadian Indigenous educational videos. Libraries staff consulted with SUILC to design a unique label identifying and highlighting indigenous collections. The Libraries also offers modified subject headings to use accurate and respectful Canadian-centric terminology to classify indigenous materials and feature seasonal and year-round displays on indigenous themes.

### *Libraries Programs & Partnerships*

Surrey Libraries screened a film series to inspire dialogue and discussion between indigenous and non-indigenous people in partnership with the National Film Board of Canada, Library and Archives Canada, Canadian Federation of Library Associations, The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Fraser River Aboriginal Friendship Centre, and SUILC. Surrey Libraries hosted special readings by indigenous authors and storytellers, including Richard Van Camp, Michael Kusugak, Nicola Campbell and Wanda John-Kehewin. In November 2020, over 600 school children participated virtually to hear stories by Michael Hutchinson and Karen Pheasant-

Neganigwane. Another example of a recent partnership was the hosting of native and indigenous plant walks led by Katzie First Nation and the creation of “Take and make” kits to make an orange ribbon pin for all ages.

### *Park Development and Programs*

The Parks division focuses on building relationships while striving to involve, collaborate and empower local First Nations. Staff are learning and creating opportunities for reconciliation by developing programs and partnerships (Surrey Nature Centre), Indigenizing parks (Nicomekl Riverfront Park), and through training (FRAFCA). Opportunities for reconciliation will be explored in the future development of an Urban Forest Stewardship & Engagement Plan. Land acknowledgements are very important and performed at all park openings, events and ceremonies and included on materials and documentation.

To incorporate Indigenous elements, local history, education, and Coast Salish place names in the Nicomekl Riverfront Park, staff are working to hire members from Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, and Semiahmoo First Nation. They will provide local expertise on land history, Indigenization and reconciliation to staff and the park design consultant, and will be heavily involved in the design process.

### *Public Art Commissions*

Surrey’s Public Art program contributes positively to the national and civic goals of reconciliation by commissioning artworks that support traditional and contemporary Indigenous cultural practices and provide learning opportunities for residents. Surrey’s Public Art Collection consists of numerous artworks by Indigenous artists installed both at Civic facilities, in schools and on private development. Information about these artworks and artists are featured on the City’s Indigenous [public art website](#).

In 2021, the Public Art Program offered a new opportunity for Indigenous artists to propose artwork designs, in consultation with the Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation and Semiahmoo First Nation and guided by Elders. The resulting artworks will be installed at Surrey Libraries, community, culture and recreation centres, on City infrastructure and featured on the 2022 public art street banners. The following new artworks resulting from this initiative that have been completed so far in 2021 include:

- Brandon Gabriel of Kwantlen First Nation: “The Time When the Salmon Return” at Fleetwood Library;
  - Rain Pierre of Katzie Nation: “Bear with It” at Clayton Library;
  - Anthony Gabriel of Kwantlen Nation: “Wading and Evading” at Clayton Community Centre;
  - Leslie Wells of Semiahmoo First Nation: “Wolf Spirit” at Semiahmoo Library; and
  - Joan Williams of Semiahmoo First Nation: “SEMWO FEN (Be Silent)” at Cloverdale Library
- In 2021, following an international design competition, the installation of the monumental sculpture “The Rivers That Connect Us” by k’wy’i’y’e Spring Salmon Studio (Drew Atkins, Phyllis Atkins, and Aaron Jordan) was completed outside the Museum of Surrey

In 2021 the City launched a process to commission Indigenous public art for installation at City Hall, in consultation with Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations leaders, Elders and artists.

### *Public Engagement Strategy*

On June 14, 2021, Council adopted the City's Public Engagement Strategy and related Toolkit. One of the objectives of the new Public Engagement Strategy and Toolkit is to reach a more diverse and representative cross-section of Surrey residents. The Strategy emphasizes the importance in hearing from diverse population groups, including Indigenous people, who have been underrepresented in engagement in the past. Working with SUILC, a formal process was developed to enhance how the City engages with Urban Indigenous. This process is outlined in the Toolkit and builds on the engagement priorities and processes that SUILC has developed. It prioritizes letting urban Indigenous people decide whether or not they want to be involved in engagement and how. As a living document the Toolkit can be expanded in the future to include other communities that are underrepresented in engagement, including land-based Nations.

During major Land Use Planning and Major Capital Project initiatives, the City traditionally engaged local First Nations in Surrey to receive feedback and provide information. The Public Engagement Strategy, and specifically the input provided by SUILC, provides a framework for continued engagement and learnings.

### *Staff Awareness and Education*

The City engages staff in a variety of inclusion initiatives each year to raise awareness of important awareness dates and cultural events observed in our community. This includes Orange Shirt Day, National Indigenous Peoples Day and Louis Riel Day which continue to be recognized annually through the City's staff communication email, intranet events posting and Staff Inclusion Calendar.

### *Signature Special Events*

The City's Special Events Team engage with land-based First Nations regarding programming within every special event, including land acknowledgements from Surrey's land-based Nations at the beginning of each event, as well as featuring Indigenous performances and educational content throughout. Performances at special events such as Canada Day, Fusion Festival, and Tree Lighting Festival, often include traditional and contemporary song and dance performances, and educational videos showcasing Indigenous traditions, artistry and history, workshops, and reconciliation information.

### *Sport Hosting Indigenous Games in 2022*

Surrey is to host the 2022 North American Indigenous Football cup on July 26 – 31 and the Women's Soccer Aboriginal Super Cup on August 20-22. Each event is to include up to 5,000 Indigenous participants and more than 100 teams from around the world. The hosting of these events is, of course, subject to change with potential for cancellation depending on status of the global pandemic and any public health orders that may be in place at the time of the event. Staff will monitor the situation closely. An update on the hosting of this event will be made in the coming months.



### *Surrey Art Gallery National Award in Education*

Surrey Art Gallery has supported learning about Indigenous art and education since the 1990s and was recently recognized by the Canadian Museum Association with a national award for outstanding achievement for this work. Continuing to activate its commitment to anti-racism and systemic change, current initiatives include an upcoming exhibition *q<sup>h</sup>atīca: k<sup>h</sup>amk<sup>h</sup>əm'tə šx<sup>h</sup>həli?* (*Divine Connection*) featuring the work of Phyllis Atkins and an art installation *Echoes* by Atheana Picha; new acquisitions in the Gallery's permanent collection; and continued education including the Gallery's K-12 Sharing Perspectives: Indigenous Contemporary Art Workshop and related resources and artist videos.

### *Surrey Civic Theatres Performance Series*

Surrey Civic Theatres prioritizes engaging Indigenous artists and companies as part of each season's offerings. In December 2020, Surrey Civic Theatres provided an online presentation of well-known Cree actor and musician, Tom Jackson in his traditional, annual concert, *The Huron Carole* and had Cree Métis poet and performer, Michelle Poirier Brown in the lineup of storytellers for *The Flame: Scary Stories Edition*. Programming to date in 2021 has featured Juno Award-nominated Cree cellist, Cris Derksen on the Digital Stage and mixed Afro-Indigenous artist, storyteller, and educator from the The'wá:lí (Soowahlie) First Nation Alysha Collie in *The Flame: Hope Springs Eternal Edition*. Both of these performances will be featured again this September as part of Surrey Civic Theatre's Culture Days presentations. Plans for Fall 2021, include the return of Tom Jackson's *The Huron Carole*, this time in a live performance on the Surrey Arts Centre's Main Stage. Land acknowledgements are included at the beginning of every performance and workshop.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The work of this project supports the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Built Environment and Neighbourhoods and Health and Wellness. Specifically, this project supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO") and Strategic Direction ("SD"):

- Inclusion DO7: Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment and opportunities for cultural connections;
- Inclusion SD2: Work with Aboriginal leaders to support and strengthen social innovation in the Surrey Urban Aboriginal community;
- Inclusion DO24: Surrey has a strong social infrastructure that supports the needs of its diverse and growing population;
- Inclusion SD13: Ensure a range of free, safe and engaging spaces and activities are available for youth and seniors in all communities and at different times of day;
- Built Environment and Neighbourhoods DO15: All new buildings, public places and outdoor spaces are welcoming, safe and universally accessible; and
- Health and Wellness SD8: Promote greater participation in all forms of recreation.



## CONCLUSION

The City has undertaken multiple initiatives that further the City's reconciliation efforts as outlined in this report. Informed by ongoing consultation with Indigenous peoples the City will build on these initiatives and continue to demonstrate the City's commitment to reconciliation.

Vincent Lalonde, ICD.D, P.Eng.  
City Manager

Appendix "I" – Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action  
Appendix "II" - Corporate Report No. R100; 2016  
Appendix "III" – Corporate Report No. R131; 2017  
Appendix "IV" - Corporate Report No. R193; 2017  
Appendix "V" – Corporate Report No. R182; 2018



Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada

# **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action**







Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada

# **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action**



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**2015**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2012

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# Calls to Action

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes the following calls to action.

## Legacy

### CHILD WELFARE

1. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:
  - i. Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
  - ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.
  - iii. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.
  - iv. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.
  - v. Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.
2. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and

publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.

3. We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.
4. We call upon the federal government to enact Aboriginal child-welfare legislation that establishes national standards for Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases and includes principles that:
  - i. Affirm the right of Aboriginal governments to establish and maintain their own child-welfare agencies.
  - ii. Require all child-welfare agencies and courts to take the residential school legacy into account in their decision making.
  - iii. Establish, as an important priority, a requirement that placements of Aboriginal children into temporary and permanent care be culturally appropriate.
5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

### EDUCATION

6. We call upon the Government of Canada to repeal Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate



educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

8. We call upon the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.
9. We call upon the federal government to prepare and publish annual reports comparing funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves, as well as educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.
10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:
  - i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.
  - ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates.
  - iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.
  - iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.
  - v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.
  - vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.
  - vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.
11. We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.
12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

#### **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

13. We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.

14. We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:
  - i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
  - ii. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.
  - iii. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.
  - iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.
  - v. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.
15. We call upon the federal government to appoint, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner. The commissioner should help promote Aboriginal languages and report on the adequacy of federal funding of Aboriginal-languages initiatives.
16. We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.
17. We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers.

#### **HEALTH**

18. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
19. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes

between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.

20. In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.
21. We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.
22. We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.
23. We call upon all levels of government to:
  - i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.
  - ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.
  - iii. Provide cultural competency training for all health-care professionals.
24. We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

## JUSTICE

25. We call upon the federal government to establish a written policy that reaffirms the independence of the

Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate crimes in which the government has its own interest as a potential or real party in civil litigation.

26. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to review and amend their respective statutes of limitations to ensure that they conform to the principle that governments and other entities cannot rely on limitation defences to defend legal actions of historical abuse brought by Aboriginal people.
27. We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.
28. We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.
29. We call upon the parties and, in particular, the federal government, to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously on an agreed set of facts.
30. We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.
31. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.
32. We call upon the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to allow trial judges, upon giving reasons, to depart from mandatory minimum sentences and restrictions on the use of conditional sentences.

33. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, FASD preventive programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.
34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:
  - i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.
  - ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.
  - iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.
  - iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.
35. We call upon the federal government to eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system.
36. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.
37. We call upon the federal government to provide more supports for Aboriginal programming in halfway houses and parole services.
38. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.
39. We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.
40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.
41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:
  - i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
  - ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.
42. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, endorsed by Canada in November 2012.

## Reconciliation

### **CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.
44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

### **ROYAL PROCLAMATION AND COVENANT OF RECONCILIATION**

45. We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

- i. Repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*.
  - ii. Adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.
  - iii. Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.
  - iv. Reconcile Aboriginal and Crown constitutional and legal orders to ensure that Aboriginal peoples are full partners in Confederation, including the recognition and integration of Indigenous laws and legal traditions in negotiation and implementation processes involving Treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements.
46. We call upon the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian society, and that would include, but not be limited to:
- i. Reaffirmation of the parties' commitment to reconciliation.
  - ii. Repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*, and the reformation of laws, governance structures, and policies within their respective institutions that continue to rely on such concepts.
  - iii. Full adoption and implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.
  - iv. Support for the renewal or establishment of Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.
  - v. Enabling those excluded from the Settlement Agreement to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.
  - vi. Enabling additional parties to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.

47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PARTIES AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

48. We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:
- i. Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
  - ii. Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practise, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
  - iii. Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
  - iv. Issuing a statement no later than March 31, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
49. We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*.

**EQUITY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

50. In keeping with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, we call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal organizations, to fund the establishment of Indigenous law institutes for the development, use, and

understanding of Indigenous laws and access to justice in accordance with the unique cultures of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

51. We call upon the Government of Canada, as an obligation of its fiduciary responsibility, to develop a policy of transparency by publishing legal opinions it develops and upon which it acts or intends to act, in regard to the scope and extent of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
52. We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and the courts to adopt the following legal principles:
  - i. Aboriginal title claims are accepted once the Aboriginal claimant has established occupation over a particular territory at a particular point in time.
  - ii. Once Aboriginal title has been established, the burden of proving any limitation on any rights arising from the existence of that title shifts to the party asserting such a limitation.

#### **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RECONCILIATION**

53. We call upon the Parliament of Canada, in consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to enact legislation to establish a National Council for Reconciliation. The legislation would establish the council as an independent, national, oversight body with membership jointly appointed by the Government of Canada and national Aboriginal organizations, and consisting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members. Its mandate would include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - i. Monitor, evaluate, and report annually to Parliament and the people of Canada on the Government of Canada's post-apology progress on reconciliation to ensure that government accountability for reconciling the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown is maintained in the coming years.
  - ii. Monitor, evaluate, and report to Parliament and the people of Canada on reconciliation progress across all levels and sectors of Canadian society, including the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.
  - iii. Develop and implement a multi-year National Action Plan for Reconciliation, which includes research and policy development, public education programs, and resources.

- iv. Promote public dialogue, public/private partnerships, and public initiatives for reconciliation.

54. We call upon the Government of Canada to provide multi-year funding for the National Council for Reconciliation to ensure that it has the financial, human, and technical resources required to conduct its work, including the endowment of a National Reconciliation Trust to advance the cause of reconciliation.
55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:
  - i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.
  - ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.
  - iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.
  - iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
  - v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.
  - vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.
  - vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.
56. We call upon the prime minister of Canada to formally respond to the report of the National Council for Reconciliation by issuing an annual "State of Aboriginal Peoples" report, which would outline the government's plans for advancing the cause of reconciliation.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

## CHURCH APOLOGIES AND RECONCILIATION

58. We call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools. We call for that apology to be similar to the 2010 apology issued to Irish victims of abuse and to occur within one year of the issuing of this Report and to be delivered by the Pope in Canada.
59. We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary.
60. We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.
61. We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with Survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for:
- i. Community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects.

- ii. Community-controlled culture- and language-revitalization projects.
- iii. Community-controlled education and relationship-building projects.
- iv. Regional dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth to discuss Indigenous spirituality, self-determination, and reconciliation.

## EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:
- i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.
  - ii. Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.
  - iii. Provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
  - iv. Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.
63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:
- i. Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.
  - ii. Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
  - iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
  - iv. Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.
64. We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on



Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders.

65. We call upon the federal government, through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, post-secondary institutions and educators, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and its partner institutions, to establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance understanding of reconciliation.

#### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

66. We call upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.

#### **MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES**

67. We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and to make recommendations.
68. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 2017 by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.
69. We call upon Library and Archives Canada to:
- i. Fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Joint-Orientlicher Principles*, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools.
  - ii. Ensure that its record holdings related to residential schools are accessible to the public.
  - iii. Commit more resources to its public education materials and programming on residential schools.
70. We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Association of Archivists to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of archival policies and best practices to:

- i. Determine the level of compliance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Joint-Orientlicher Principles*, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools.
- ii. Produce a report with recommendations for full implementation of these international mechanisms as a reconciliation framework for Canadian archives.

#### **MISSING CHILDREN AND BURIAL INFORMATION**

71. We call upon all chief coroners and provincial vital statistics agencies that have not provided to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada their records on the deaths of Aboriginal children in the care of residential school authorities to make these documents available to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
72. We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
73. We call upon the federal government to work with churches, Aboriginal communities, and former residential school students to establish and maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries, including, where possible, plot maps showing the location of deceased residential school children.
74. We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested.
75. We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of

appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

76. We call upon the parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating, and protecting residential school cemeteries to adopt strategies in accordance with the following principles:
- i. The Aboriginal community most affected shall lead the development of such strategies.
  - ii. Information shall be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers in the development of such strategies.
  - iii. Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site.

#### **NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

77. We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
78. We call upon the Government of Canada to commit to making a funding contribution of \$10 million over seven years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, plus an additional amount to assist communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experience and their involvement in truth, healing, and reconciliation.

#### **COMMEMORATION**

79. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal organizations, and the arts community, to develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration. This would include, but not be limited to:
- i. Amending the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat.
  - ii. Revising the policies, criteria, and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history.

- iii. Developing and implementing a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history.

80. We call 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.
81. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools National Monument in the city of Ottawa to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.
82. We call upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.
83. We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.

#### **MEDIA AND RECONCILIATION**

84. We call upon the federal government to restore and increase funding to the CBC/Radio-Canada, to enable Canada's national public broadcaster to support reconciliation, and be properly reflective of the diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to:
- i. Increasing Aboriginal programming, including Aboriginal-language speakers.
  - ii. Increasing equitable access for Aboriginal peoples to jobs, leadership positions, and professional development opportunities within the organization.
  - iii. Continuing to provide dedicated news coverage and online public information resources on issues of concern to Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians,

including the history and legacy of residential schools and the reconciliation process.

85. We call upon the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, as an independent non-profit broadcaster with programming by, for, and about Aboriginal peoples, to support reconciliation, including but not limited to:
- i. Continuing to provide leadership in programming and organizational culture that reflects the diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples.
  - ii. Continuing to develop media initiatives that inform and educate the Canadian public, and connect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.
86. We call upon Canadian journalism programs and media schools to require education for all students on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations.

#### **SPORTS AND RECONCILIATION**

87. We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.
88. We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.
89. We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.
90. We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:
- i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse

cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.

- ii. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
  - iii. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
  - iv. Anti-racism awareness and training programs.
91. We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.

#### **BUSINESS AND RECONCILIATION**

92. We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following:
- i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.
  - ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.
  - iii. Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

#### **NEWCOMERS TO CANADA**

93. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the national Aboriginal organizations, to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including

information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.

94. We call upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of Citizenship with the following:

I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.

## Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3C 3Z3

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Website: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)

NO: **R100**

COUNCIL DATE: **May 2, 2016**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 2, 2016**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**

FILE: **5080-01**

SUBJECT: **Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Adopt the Strategy titled "*All Our Relations: Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy*", a copy of which is attached as Appendix "II" to this report; and
3. Authorize staff to continue to work with the Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Committee on the development of Phase II of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the findings of the first phase of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy ("the Strategy") and on the plans for the next phase of the Strategy.

## BACKGROUND

On February 4, 2015, inspired by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Surrey Social Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) identified Aboriginal issues and the development of an Aboriginal Strategy as a priority focus area for the SPAC and Social Planning in 2015-2016.

Supported by Aboriginal agencies in Surrey, the City of Surrey applied to the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) for funding through the Urban Partnerships program. In July 2015, the City of Surrey was awarded a grant of \$90,979.00 to convene the Aboriginal agencies in Surrey to develop a social innovation strategy. On September 29, 2015, Council received a report on the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy (Corporate Report No. R198, included as Appendix "I"). The report highlighted the project's goals, as well as the activities that would be undertaken to develop the strategy.



A Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Committee was established to guide the project. Phase I of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy identifies 14 key findings. The findings and associated conclusions are based on research and consultations conducted with Aboriginal residents and people who work directly with the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

## DISCUSSION

The Aboriginal population in Surrey is young, diverse, and growing. It is estimated that the current size of the Aboriginal population in Surrey has surpassed the Aboriginal population in Vancouver and will grow exponentially over the next 15 years.

The overall goals of the Strategy are to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Aboriginal population in Surrey. At the same time, the project itself was an opportunity to build stronger working relationships between the City of Surrey and Aboriginal governments and organizations.

### Aboriginal Leadership Committee

An Aboriginal Leadership Committee was convened by the City of Surrey to guide the project, chaired by Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair of the SPAC. The Committee includes the First Nation governments in whose traditional territory Surrey is located, Aboriginal service organizations, and non-Aboriginal government agencies such as the Surrey School District, the RCMP, Fraser Health, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The Leadership Committee met regularly to provide advice and guidance on the development of the Strategy. Evaluations at the end of this phase indicated strong commitment from Committee members to continue to provide leadership in developing Phase II of the Strategy.

### Research and Consultations

Research and consultations provided a baseline for understanding the issues related to barriers and opportunities for Aboriginal people in Surrey. Activities included:

- **Research:** A profile of the Aboriginal Population in Surrey was compiled from existing data and information, including information from the 2011 Census and the National Household Survey. The profile is included as Appendix "II".
- **Key Informant Interviews:** Interviews were held with 40 participants representing 23 different organizations that interact with the Aboriginal community in Surrey.
- **Focus groups:** Focus groups were held with 32 Aboriginal residents of Surrey.

## Leaders' Celebration

A celebration was held on April 22, 2016 at Surrey City Hall. The reception brought together Mayor and Council, Aboriginal leaders, and other community leaders to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the project, and to confirm the community's collective commitment to building relationships and strengthening the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

## *All Our Relations* Report

The *All Our Relations* report, included as Appendix "I" to this report, summarizes activities and results of Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy. The report identifies 14 findings accompanied by 37 conclusions for the urban Aboriginal community and service organizations. The findings are:

- **Finding #1:** There is a distinction between the urban Aboriginal population and the legal and political rights of those First Nations on whose traditional territories the City of Surrey sits.
- **Finding #2:** It is estimated the current size of the Aboriginal population in Surrey has surpassed the Aboriginal population in Vancouver and will grow exponentially over the next 15 years.
- **Finding #3:** The urban Aboriginal community in Surrey is very diverse.
- **Finding #4:** While Aboriginal people live all over Surrey, some neighbourhoods have higher concentrations of Aboriginal people than others.
- **Finding #5:** The Aboriginal population in Surrey is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Surrey and Metro Vancouver. Aboriginal youth face unique challenges with personal safety, police relations, and age appropriate services.
- **Finding #6:** There is a disconcertingly high number of Aboriginal foster children living in Surrey. These children and their families face very significant challenges and barriers.
- **Finding #7:** Most Aboriginal adults in Surrey have a post-secondary education; however, a disproportionate number of Aboriginal adults in Surrey lack a high-school diploma, compared to non-Aboriginal adults in Surrey.
- **Finding #8:** The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal people in Surrey is on par with municipal and regional averages; however, the unemployment rate for the Aboriginal community is considerably higher than that of the Surrey population as a whole. The Aboriginal community in Surrey has one of the highest child and youth poverty rates in the region.
- **Finding #9:** The majority of Aboriginal people that move to Surrey stay in the city. Home ownership levels among Aboriginal households in Surrey are much higher than in Vancouver. More Aboriginal-specific housing options are needed for renters and the homeless.

- **Finding #10:** While the collective Aboriginal community in Surrey is largely invisible as a group, Aboriginal individuals report facing negative stereotypes and ignorance in daily life.
- **Finding #11:** There are a wide variety of social services and programs in Surrey; however, most of the services and programs are delivered by non-Aboriginal agencies and are not designed to serve Aboriginal specific needs or preferences.
- **Finding #12:** There is a need to augment existing services for Aboriginal people.
- **Finding #13:** Aboriginal people in Surrey do not have a central place to connect with the community.
- **Finding #14:** The Aboriginal community in Surrey can be better organized to give voice to their issues and the unique needs of the urban Aboriginal population.

### Next Steps

Phase II of the project will be an opportunity to build on the findings and conclusions contained in the *All Our Relations* report, and to build the commitment for collective action and positive change by:

- Convening a broader cross-section of non-Aboriginal organizations and funders to help develop solutions and strategies for addressing the findings and conclusions contained in the *All Our Relations* report; and
- Considering the establishment of the Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Council as a means to increase the capacity of the Aboriginal community to influence the policy, programs, and services that impact urban Aboriginal people the most.

Funding will be required to support Phase II. Staff will work with the Aboriginal Leadership Committee to secure the needed resources.

### SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly, the following action items:

- SC4: Cultural Awareness in the Community; and
- SC5: Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

### CONCLUSION

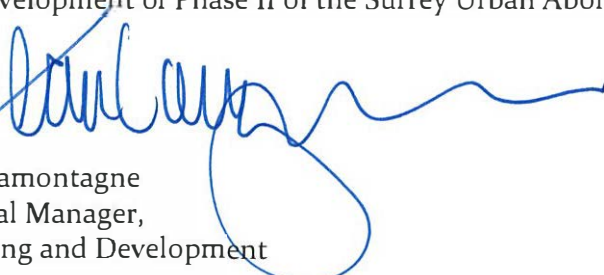
The title of the Phase I report – *All Our Relations* – emphasizes a relational worldview shared by many Indigenous peoples and points to the many relationships that need to be created, strengthened, or expanded in Surrey.

The objective of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy is to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Aboriginal population in Surrey. Phase I of

the project has provided an opportunity for collaboration with the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey and builds the groundwork for further collaborative action in Phase II.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Adopt the "*All Our Relations: Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy*", a copy of which is attached as Appendix "I" to this report; and
- Authorize staff to continue to work with the Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Committee on the development of Phase II of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy.



Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager,  
Planning and Development

Appendix "I" – Corporate Report No. R198

Appendix "II" – All Our Relations: Phase I of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy

Appendix "III" – Profile of the Aboriginal Population in Surrey

**(Appendices Available Upon Request)**

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# CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **B131**

COUNCIL DATE: **June 12, 2017**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **June 8, 2017**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning & Development** FILE: **5080-01**  
**Acting General Manager, Finance & Technology**

SUBJECT: **All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy - Phase 2 of the**  
**Surrey Urban Aboriginal Innovation Project**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Development Department and the Finance & Technology Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Authorize staff to partner with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (the "Leadership Committee") on the implementation of All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy - Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project (the "All Our Relations Strategy"), attached as Appendix "I" to this report;
3. Approve City support of the recommendations for which the City can play a role; and
4. Approve a contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the implementation of the All Our Relations Strategy, attached as Appendix "II."

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's commitment to support the Leadership Committee in implementing the All Our Relations Strategy and, specifically, to support those recommendations for which the City can play a role. In addition, this report serves as a request for a financial contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund to be assigned to support the facilitation of the Leadership Committee.

## BACKGROUND

Inspired by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in February 2015 the Social Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) identified Aboriginal issues and the development of an Aboriginal strategy as a priority focus area for the SPAC and Social Planning.

On September 28, 2015, Council received a report informing them that the City, with the support of Aboriginal agencies in Surrey, had been awarded funding by the BC Association of Aboriginal

Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) through the Urban Partnerships Program to convene the agencies to develop a social innovation strategy (Corporate Report No. R198; 2015, Appendix “III”).

On May 2, 2016, Council adopted the All Our Relations Strategy. Based on research and consultations, the Phase 1 report identified 14 key findings related to the Aboriginal population in Surrey (Corporate Report No. R100; 2016, Appendix “IV”).

## **DISCUSSION**

The Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project (the “Project”) is an initiative of the Leadership Committee. The overarching goal of the Project is to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Indigenous population in Surrey.

In 2016-2017, the Leadership Committee built on the 14 key findings identified in Phase 1 to develop the All Our Relations Strategy. The process included consultation with non-Aboriginal community stakeholders. Phase 2 was supported by a contribution of \$83,300.00 from the BCAAFC through the Government of Canada’s Urban Partnerships program. As with Phase 1, for Phase 2 the City supported the Leadership Committee by administering the BCAAFC contract.

### **Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee**

The Leadership Committee’s mission is to be the collective voice of the Urban Indigenous population in Surrey. Convened by the City, it is composed of representatives of Aboriginal service organizations, as well as representatives from Aboriginal programs within non-Aboriginal public agencies, including Surrey Schools; RCMP; Fraser Health; and Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Leadership Committee is chaired by Councillor Vera LeFranc, Vice-Chair of the SPAC.

The First Nations governments on whose traditional territory Surrey is located have an open invitation to participate in the Leadership Committee; this includes the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations.

Since the Leadership Committee was first convened in 2015, it has met regularly to guide the Project. Leadership Committee meetings also serve as an opportunity for City staff and other community groups to inform and seek the support and guidance of the Leadership Committee on initiatives that relate to the Urban Indigenous community in Surrey.

### **All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy**

The Vision of the All Our Relations Strategy is:

“A city that values Indigenous contributions to city life. A city that is committed to working towards reconciliation at all levels. A city where every Indigenous person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.”

The All Our Relations Strategy includes five strategic objectives, supported by 42 goals and 98 strategies.

The five strategic directions are:

1. Create and Strengthen Partnerships;
2. Expand Indigenous Leadership Capacity;
3. Improve and Grow Programs and Services;
4. Increase Education and Understanding; and
5. Increase Funding.

The document identifies the Leadership Committee as “the protagonist driving the change we want to see.” It also extends an invitation to other organizations and all levels of government to join the Leadership Committee in working together to implement the Strategy.

Since completing the All Our Relations Strategy, the Leadership Committee has formed working groups to focus on implementation of five initial priorities:

- Building leadership capacity among urban Indigenous residents;
- Planning a mixed use cultural and service hub;
- Increasing the community’s awareness and understanding;
- Supporting vulnerable women and girls; and
- Developing an urban Indigenous child poverty strategy.

### **Reconciliation and the City of Surrey**

The TRC has had a profound impact on Canadians’ awareness of the deep and lasting trauma of Indian residential schools on Indigenous peoples, and the urgent need for reconciliation to transform Canadian society. The TRC’s final report includes 94 Calls to Action “to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.” Thirteen of the TRC’s Calls to Action relate specifically to municipalities.

In 2016, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ responded to the TRC with a document entitled “Pathways to Reconciliation: Cities Respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action” (the “Report”). The Report highlights how municipal governments “are rolling up their sleeves to support reconciliation as a national challenge that is deeply felt at the local level.”

There are three somewhat overlapping groups of Indigenous people with whom the City could engage in reconciliation. These include:

1. Land-based First Nations governments in what is now the City;
2. Non-land-based Metis governments that represent Metis people living in the City; and
3. Urban Indigenous residents of Surrey.

The All Our Relations Strategy relates to Urban Indigenous residents of Surrey. It offers an opportunity for the City to make a commitment to reconciliation with the Urban Indigenous community in Surrey.

### **City of Surrey: Role in Implementing the All Our Relations Strategy**

The Leadership Committee has identified priorities for action and extended an invitation to the City to work alongside them.

Staff are recommending that the City should remain supportive of the Leadership Committee by committing to:

- Having a City representative on the Leadership Committee;
- Authorizing staff to provide support to the Leadership Committee;
- Leveraging City contacts and networks to advance the capacity of the Leadership Committee and the Urban Indigenous community more generally; and
- Continuing to channel requests for Urban Indigenous perspectives on City initiatives through the Leadership Committee.

Input from the City’s Senior Management Team indicates that there is support and a willingness to partner with the Leadership Committee to implement the All Our Relations Strategy. In some cases, engagement with Indigenous people is already embedded in existing plans. For example, a strategic priority for Surrey Libraries’ is to “engage with the community,” including Urban Aboriginals. The RCMP has confirmed that all of the goals in the All Our Relations Strategy are consistent with the current programs in the RCMP’s Diversity Unit and the service delivery model in Surrey. Cultural Services has confirmed that the public art program and Public Art Advisory Committee are very supportive of welcoming more artworks by Indigenous artists in the City’s public art collection, including acquiring works for City facilities.

The tables below highlight goals and strategies contained in the All Our Relations Strategy for which the City could play a role. It identifies the department(s) that could be involved in working with the Leadership Committee on specific strategies. In total, there are 17 goals and 32 strategies that Council and staff from various departments and/or the RCMP could partner with the Leadership Committee to implement. There may be additional goals and strategies that the City could play a role in supporting.

The tables also include notes and examples of current and past City initiatives that align with the Leadership Committee’s strategies. It shows that many City departments are already engaging with the Urban Indigenous community.

In the fall, staff will convene a series of inter-departmental consultations, as well as a consultation with the Leadership Committee, to identify new or additional actions or projects that the City could undertake to support the implementation of the All Our Relations Strategy. Following this consultation process, a report will be forwarded for Council’s consideration by early 2018.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION I: CREATE AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS**

**Goal #3: Strengthen the relationship with the City of Surrey.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Continue to have a City representative on the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillor LeFranc chairs the Committee and Social Planning provides administrative support.</li></ul>	Planning & Development (P&D)



<p><b>Continue to seek funding and partnerships by leveraging City relationships</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Planning staff has recently convened meetings with private foundations. The meetings are an opportunity for the Leadership Committee to share the Strategy and discuss possible partnership or funding opportunities.</li> <li>• The City's Community Art Program partnered with the Friendship Centre on a project that engaged the Centre's youth advisory committee in developing a committee image/logo.</li> </ul>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>
<p><b>Actively support and give guidance to City initiatives to build awareness of Urban Indigenous matters.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks staff met with the Leadership Committee regarding the creation of an Urban Indigenous youth mural project.</li> </ul>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>
<p><b>Actively support City initiatives in order to incorporate urban Indigenous perspectives into City policy, programs, and planning.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks staff met with the Leadership Committee on the Parks, Recreation and Culture (PR&amp;C) Strategic Plan.</li> <li>• Libraries staff met with the Leadership Committee to secure support and guidance on the Taan's Moon childrens' exhibit.</li> <li>• Human Resource (HR) staff met with the Leadership Committee to confirm an appropriate celebration format for Orange Shirt Day.</li> </ul>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION II: EXPAND INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP CAPACITY**

**Goal #6: Identify and cultivate more Indigenous people to take on leadership roles within Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations in Surrey.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Create mentorship opportunities so that emerging Indigenous leaders can connect with experienced community leaders.</b></p>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>

**Goal #7: More Indigenous people serving as directors of community organizations, on city committees, and other boards.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Seek Indigenous representation for city committees.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPAC has recently designated a seat for an Indigenous youth. DAC has a member who is Indigenous.</li> </ul>	<p>Council/ Legislative Services</p>

**Goal #10: Indigenize public spaces.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Partner with the City of Surrey to increase Indigenous art in City Hall, City-owned buildings, and public spaces.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City website’s Arts &amp; Culture map includes a layer on Indigenous art which features 10 public art pieces.</li> <li>• Surrey Art Gallery has a free on-line teacher’s resource on Indigenous art in the Gallery’s collection; it includes interviews with Kwantlen artist Brandon Gabriel.</li> <li>• Surrey Art Gallery has increased the curriculum and school booking opportunities for the “Sharing Perspectives: Indigenous Contemporary Art Workshop,” led by a local First Nations artist/educator.</li> </ul>	PR&C
<p><b>Advocate for the City to consult local Coast Salish First Nations on appropriate ways to recognize their connections to the land (e.g., signage and designation of heritage sites, et cetera)</b></p>	Council/ Multiple Depts.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION III: IMPROVE AND GROW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Goal #13: More appropriate and affordable Indigenous-run housing options serving the diverse needs of the community.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Lobby all levels of government for more housing units and more diversified housing systems for the Urban Indigenous population.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Plan for Housing the Homeless identifies Aboriginal housing as one of the priorities.</li> <li>• The E. Fry project on a City-owned site will include 15 units for Indigenous female youth; the Friendship Centre will operate these units.</li> </ul>	Council/P&D

**Goal #14: Increase opportunities for career progression (Low wage to higher wage).**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Work with large employers in the City to create career development opportunities for urban Indigenous people.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2011/12 HR partnered with an Aboriginal employment agency (ACCESS) on an employment initiative.</li> <li>• The City’s Emerging Leaders Program has a project to develop employment opportunities for members of three under-represented groups, including Indigenous people.</li> </ul>	HR

**Goal #19: Increase early literacy for Indigenous children.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Partner with Surrey Libraries to increase utilization rates among Indigenous people.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Strategic Priorities #2 “Engage with Community” identifies Urban Aboriginals as one of the population groups to “identify community needs and invite participation in developing programs and services.”</li> </ul> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise the profile of Indigenous literature, Libraries hosted Taan’s Moon (Haida story) exhibit/activities in May 2017.</li> <li>• Growing trusted relationships with the Indigenous community through staff outreach to Aboriginal agencies (Friendship Centre, Awahsuk pre-school, et cetera).</li> <li>• Promoting Indigenous collections (displays, Bibliocommons booklists for children, teens, and adults, story-time kits).</li> <li>• To increase access to Indigenous literature, a book labeling discussion is underway to make the collection more visible on the shelves; creating a separate funded budget for Children’s Indigenous materials (supporting and aligning with new Curriculum First Nations Principals of Learning).</li> <li>• Helping to spread the awareness of Indigenous issues through programming or displays (Residential schools – Libraries hosted an author reading by Bev Sellars and had displays in branches), exposing the public to Indigenous culture (incorporating Indigenous titles into book clubs), and staff attends various aboriginal workshops.</li> <li>• Libraries has an active and ongoing Aboriginal Committee.</li> </ul>	<p>Libraries</p>
<p><b>Expand programs that get age appropriate Indigenous books and stories into the homes of Indigenous families.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taan’s Moon books available for borrowing.</li> <li>• UBC Library student conducted an analysis of Indigenous Teen Fiction collection in 2016.</li> <li>• Connecting to Indigenous families with newborns – Aboriginal Read to Baby kits.</li> <li>• Supporting literacy with Indigenous content in programs – Moe the Mouse workshop (InterLINK) – four staff attended.</li> </ul>	<p>Libraries</p>

**Goal #20: Increase police outreach to Indigenous youth.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Create opportunities for police to collaborate with Indigenous youth leaders.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCMP has a First Nations Officer as part of their Diversity Unit.</li> </ul>	RCMP
<p><b>Work with Surrey Schools to increase positive interactions between Indigenous youth and police.</b></p>	RCMP

**Goal #21: Improve the physical safety of Indigenous youth.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Work with Surrey RCMP and others to develop a task force to address Indigenous youth physical safety issues.</b></p>	RCMP/ Public Safety

**Goal #22: Improve the physical safety of Indigenous women.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><i>Note: Strategies identified do not include a specific role for the City. Surrey Vulnerable Women's and Girl's Working Group has a potential role (Social Planning, Public Safety, and RCMP are Working Group members.)</i></p>	N/A

**Goal #27: Increase Indigenous youth participation in sport.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Partner with the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Council and/or PR&amp;C to develop strategies for increasing Indigenous youth participation in sport in Surrey.</b></p>	PR&C

**Goal #29: Increase the awareness of Indigenous programs and services available to Indigenous individuals and families.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Ensure information on Indigenous programs and services offered in Surrey are easily accessible on the City's website.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An initiative is underway to create a community services web-portal on the City's website.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.

**Goal #32: Build an appropriate space (or spaces) for the Aboriginal community to gather.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Convene a Cultural Centre Working Group with the City of Surrey.</b></p>	PR&C/P&D

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION IV: INCREASE EDUCATION & UNDERSTANDING**

**Goal #35: Greater understanding of First Nation and Métis experiences and opportunities to explore the meaning of reconciliation.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Create and deliver a Métis cultural competency training module.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2012, the City partnered with the BC Métis Association to deliver Métis cultural competency training.</li> </ul>	HR
<p><b>Create and deliver a First Nation cultural competency training module.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016, HR hosted a staff Lunch &amp; Learn with indigenous author Bev Sellars on the topic of Indian residential schools as part of Orange Shirt Day.</li> <li>Libraries staff attended the full day “Building Bridges” workshop hosted by the School District and Options.</li> </ul>	HR

**Goal #36: Individuals have the opportunity to learn about the history of residential school.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Host Orange Shirt Day in cooperation with the City of Surrey.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City and RCMP hosted Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2016.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.
<p><b>Partner with the City of Surrey to host a Truth and Reconciliation Commission event.</b></p>	Council
<p><b>Partner with Surrey Libraries to bring in authors and speakers that can share First Nation and Métis experiences of Indian Residential Schools.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016, Libraries hosted a public event with BC Indigenous author Bev Sellars on the topic of Indian residential schools.</li> </ul>	Libraries

**Goal #37: More First Nation and Métis cultural events and celebrations in Surrey.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Expand Louis Riel Day activities.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council proclaimed Louis Riel Day in 2016 and has done so a few times in past years.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.

<b>Investigate the potential to host North American Indigenous Games or other Indigenous sporting events in Surrey.</b>	PR&C
<b>Lead and coordinate National Indigenous Day events.</b>  <i>Note:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016 and 2017 PR&amp;C staff has worked with the Aboriginal Committee organizing a National Aboriginal Day event at Bridgeview on June 21.</li> </ul>	PR&C
<b>Participate in other cultural events and celebrations as requested.</b>  <i>Example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surrey International Children’s Festival includes an opening welcome by the local Circle of Elders Group. The programming expectation is to include Indigenous performances and art activities at every Festival.</li> <li>Surrey Civic Theatres includes Indigenous programming every year at Culture Days event.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.

**Goal #38: Combat negative stereotypes and discrimination in the city.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<b>Develop and implement an anti-racism campaign.</b>  <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Immigration Partnership’s “True Colours of Surrey” anti-racism campaign includes one Aboriginal poster. Marketing assisted the campaign by putting posters in bus shelters and the Web Team sent out social media messages.</li> <li>In 2017, staff are being updated on the City’s Respectful Workplace and Human Rights Policies through City Essentials. Both Policies were recently updated to expand their inclusive language.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.
<b>Seek commitment from Surrey Schools, RCMP, the City of Surrey and others to complete cultural competency training.</b>	HR/ Multiple Depts.
<b>Partner with the City of Surrey to increase the visibility of traditional Coast Salish place names.</b>	Multiple Depts.
<b>Create opportunities for visual representations of reconciliation.</b>	Multiple Depts.

**City of Surrey: Council Initiatives Funding**

Over the past two years, the work of the Leadership Committee was been supported by the BCAAFC through the Government of Canada’s Urban Partnerships program. The 2016-2017 contract with the BCAAFC was completed in April 2017.

In order to sustain momentum and begin to implement the All Our Relations Strategy, the Leadership Committee is requesting a contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund. This funding will be used to continue to retain an Indigenous consultant to facilitate

Leadership Committee and Working Group meetings, help prepare funding proposals and other documents, and provide City staff with as-needed advice and support. Council's contribution will assist in enabling the Leadership Committee to leverage additional resources.

The Council Initiatives Fund is attached to Appendix "II" of this report, based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendations included in this report.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This Corporate Report supports the following Desired Outcome (DO) and Strategic Direction (SD) identified in the Sustainability Charter 2.0.

### Inclusion

- DO 7: Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment and opportunities for cultural connections.
- SD 2: Work with Aboriginal leaders to support and strengthen social innovation in the Surrey Urban Aboriginal community.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Receive this report as information;
- Authorize staff to partner with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (the "Leadership Committee") on the implementation of All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy - Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project (the "All Our Relations Strategy"), attached as Appendix "I" to this report;
- Approve City support of the recommendations for which the City can play a role; and
- Approve a contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the implementation of the All Our Relations Strategy, attached as Appendix "II."



Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager, Planning & Development

AM/ss



Kam Grewal, CPA  
Acting General Manager, Finance & Technology

Appendix "I" - All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy - Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project

Appendix "II" - Council Initiatives - Allocations for 2017

Appendix "III" - Corporate Report No. R198; 2015

Appendix "IV" - Corporate Report No. R100; 2016

**(Appendices Available Upon Request)**



# CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R193

COUNCIL DATE: September 11, 2017

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: September 6, 2017  
FROM: General Manager, Planning & Development FILE: 5080-01  
SUBJECT: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Development Department recommends that Council:

- Receive this report as information; and
- Endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, included as Appendix "I," as the framework for the City to use in its on-going process of reconciliation with local First Nations and urban Indigenous peoples in Surrey.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the framework for reconciliation in Surrey. This responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Call to Action #43 that calls upon Canadian governments (including the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments) to fully adopt and implement UNDRIP as the framework for reconciliation.

## BACKGROUND

Since 2015, the City has been actively working with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee to support and strengthen the urban Indigenous community in Surrey. Specifically, these efforts have focused on developing and implementing the All Our Relations Social Innovation Strategy.

On May 2, 2016, Council adopted the All Our Relations Strategy: Phase 1 (Corporate Report No. R100; 2016, included as Appendix "II").

On June 8, 2017, Council authorized staff to partner with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee on the implementation of the All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy, Phase 2, and approved a contribution of \$25,000 to support its implementation (Corporate Report No. R131; 2017, included as Appendix "III").



## DISCUSSION

Surrey is located on the traditional territories of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlam, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations. In addition to the local land-based First Nations people, Surrey has a large, young, and growing urban Indigenous population that includes First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people.

The All Our Relations: Phase 1 report provides an understanding of the urban Indigenous population in Surrey. This includes highlighting some of the challenges that impede a positive experience of city life. For example, Surrey has an extremely high rate of Indigenous child poverty (45%) and an over-representation of Indigenous children in the child protection system. The Social Innovation Strategy Phase 2 provides recommendations for action to achieve the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee's Vision of:

*A city that values Indigenous contributions to city life. A city that is committed to working towards reconciliation at all levels. A city where every Indigenous person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.*

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada**

The TRC has had a profound impact on Canadians' awareness of the deep and lasting trauma of Indian residential schools on Indigenous peoples, and the need for reconciliation to transform Canadian society.

The TRC's final report, released in 2015, includes 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation (included as Appendix "IV"). One of these, Call to Action #43, calls on the "federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation."

### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

A United Nations General Assembly declaration is a document expressing political commitment on matters of global significance. A declaration is not legally binding, unlike a treaty or a covenant. Declarations are not signed or ratified by states, but can be adopted by consensus or by vote. Declarations only represent political commitment from the states that vote in favour of adopting them.

UNDRIP is a document that describes both individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. It offers guidance on cooperative relationships with Indigenous peoples based on the principles of equality, partnership, good faith, and mutual respect. UNDRIP addresses the rights of Indigenous peoples on issues such as culture, identity, religion, language, health, education, and community.

UNDRIP was adopted by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on September 13, 2007. In May 2016, the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs announced that Canada was a full supporter, without qualification, of the declaration. In July 2017, the mandate letter from the Premier of British Columbia to the new provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation included the adoption and implementation of UNDRIP as a key priority.

## **UNDRIP: A Framework for Municipal Governments**

In 2016, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) released “Pathways to Reconciliation: Cities respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action” (included as Appendix “V”). The FCM report notes that “across the country, mayors and councils are working with Indigenous leaders and organizations to create better cities by acknowledging and addressing the experience and needs of the growing urban Indigenous population, strengthening government to government partnerships and learning from the past.”

Related to UNDRIP, the FCM report notes that as sub-national governments, municipalities are not signatories to the United Nations and, therefore, look to the federal government to provide leadership by developing a national framework for reconciliation guided by UNDRIP. The Big Cities Mayors’ Caucus was supportive of the federal government’s commitment to adopt UNDRIP and “will continue to dialogue with the federal government to understand and address the local implications and needed actions.” It notes that cities such as Toronto and Vancouver have endorsed UNDRIP.

### **Montreal, City of Reconciliation: Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – September 2017**

On September 12 and 13, 2017, a major international event is being held in Montreal to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of UNDRIP. The event is being hosted the Honourable Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) and Sébastien Goupil, Secretary General of the Canadian Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

As an official celebration of UNDRIP, the Montreal event will bring together Indigenous peoples; representatives of the UN Permanent Forum and other international bodies; federal, provincial, and municipal government representatives; as well as dignitaries “who through their actions have represented a public will to make the rights of Indigenous Peoples known and respected throughout the world.”

A letter of invitation to the Montreal event was sent to Mayor Hepner in July 2017 (attached as Appendix “VI”). Councillor LeFranc will attend the event on behalf of Mayor and Council.

### **UNDRIP & the City of Surrey**

According to the TRC, “reconciliation requires that a new vision, based on a commitment to mutual respect, be developed.” UNDRIP provides a set of principles to guide the process of reconciliation. Council’s endorsement of UNDRIP as the framework for reconciliation represents the City’s commitment to a process of reconciliation and to working collaboratively with the local First Nations and the urban Indigenous peoples in Surrey to determine how UNDRIP’s principles can be implemented at the local level in the Surrey context.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

This Corporate Report supports the following Desired Outcome (DO) and Strategic Direction (SD) identified in the Sustainability Charter.

## Inclusion

- DO7: Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment and opportunities for cultural connections.
- SD2: Work with Aboriginal leaders to support and strengthen social innovation in the Surrey Urban Aboriginal community.

## CONCLUSION

The Planning & Development Department recommends that Council:

- Receive this report as information; and
- Endorse UNDRIP, included as Appendix "I," as the framework for the City to use in its on-going process of reconciliation with local First Nations and urban Indigenous peoples in Surrey.



Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager, Planning & Development

AM/ss

- Appendix "I" - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
Appendix "II" - Corporate Report No. R100; 2016 (Appendices "I" and "III" omitted)  
Appendix "III" - Corporate Report No. R131; 2017 (Appendices "II," "III," and "IV" omitted)  
Appendix "IV" - Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, 2015  
Appendix "V" - Pathways to Reconciliation: Cities respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Appendix "VI" - Letter of Invitation to Mayor Hepner to the UNDRIP celebration in Montreal on September 12 and 13, 2017

**(Appendices Available Upon Request)**

# CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R182

COUNCIL DATE: July 23, 2018

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 19, 2018**  
FROM: **General Manager, Planning & Development** FILE: **5080-01**  
SUBJECT: **Update on the Implementation of the All Our Relations  
Social Innovation Strategy**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to continue to work on the feasibility of implementing the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee's (SUILC) recommendations for further actions, and to report back to Council, as appropriate.

## INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Council with an update on:

- SUILC's activities conducted during the past year to implement the *All Our Relations Strategy*;
- Actions that City departments are currently taking, and propose to take, to support the implementation of the *All Our Relations Strategy*; and
- SUILC's recommendations for additional actions that the City could take to further the City's efforts to work toward reconciliation.

## BACKGROUND

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has had a significant impact on Canadians' understanding of the historic wrongs committed against Indigenous people (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) and in inspiring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to transform Canadian society so that we can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity.

Inspired by the TRC, in February 2015 the Social Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) identified Indigenous issues and the development of an Indigenous Strategy as a priority focus area for the SPAC and Social Planning.

On September 28, 2015, Council received a report informing them that the City, with the support of Indigenous agencies in Surrey, had been awarded funding from the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) through the Urban Partnerships Program to convene the agencies to develop a social innovation strategy.

On May 2, 2016, Council adopted the "*All Our Relations: Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy.*" Based on research and consultations, the Phase 1 report identified 14 key findings related to the Indigenous population in Surrey (Corporate Report No. R100; 2016: Appendix "I").

On June 12, 2017, Council received the "*All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy: Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project*". Council authorized staff to partner with the SUILC on the implementation of the recommendations for which the City can play a role. In order to sustain momentum and leverage additional resources, Council awarded SUILC \$25,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund.

On September 6, 2017, Council endorsed the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a framework for the City to use in its on-going process of reconciliation with First Nations and urban Indigenous peoples in Surrey (Corporate Report R193; 2017: Appendix "II").

## DISCUSSION

SUILC's mission is to be a collective voice of the urban Indigenous population in Surrey. The Committee is composed of representatives of Indigenous service organizations, as well as representatives from Indigenous programs within non-Indigenous public agencies, including Surrey Schools, RCMP, Fraser Health, and Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Committee is co-chaired by Councillor Vera LeFranc, Vice-Chair of the SPAC; Shelly Hill, CEO of Kekinow Native Housing Society; and Cassandra Dorgelo, Youth Program and Policy Analyst at Métis Nation BC.

In the spring of 2017, SUILC released the *All Our Relations Strategy*. Its Vision is:

*"A city that values Indigenous contributions to city life. A city that is committed to working towards reconciliation at all levels. A city where every Indigenous person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential."*

The *All Our Relations Strategy* includes five strategic objectives, supported by 42 goals and 98 strategies. The five strategic directions are:

- Create and Strengthen Partnerships;
- Expand Indigenous Leadership Capacity;
- Improve and Grow Programs and Services;
- Increase Education and Understanding; and
- Increase Funding.



## **SUILC's Implementation of the *All Our Relations Strategy*: 2017-2018**

Over the past year, SUILC has been actively engaged in implementing the *All Our Relations Strategy*. The \$25,000 Council Initiatives grant, awarded in June 2017, proved to be effective in sustaining the SUILC through 2017 and early 2018, and enabling the SUILC to successfully secure multi-year operational funding as well as some project funding.

In the past year, SUILC met as a committee of the whole approximately once a month. Five Working Groups were established; each Working Group focuses on specific goals of the *All Our Relations Strategy*. Highlights of SUILC's activities in 2017-2018 are provided below.

### SUILC Committee of the Whole

- Core operational funding of \$500,000 (\$100,000 per year for five years) was secured from Indigenous Services Canada.
- Eight committee-of-the-whole meetings were held and five special meetings (e.g. all-candidates meetings). A full-day strategic planning retreat was held in May 2018.
- Delegations seeking policy and program advice and input are included on SUILC meeting agendas. Over the past year this has included delegations from City departments as well as other organizations, such as TransLink and Right to Play.
- SUILC's Terms of Reference were revised and approved. In May 2018, two additional co-chairs were selected.

### Protocol & Strategic Partnerships Working Group

- SUILC made a presentation to the SFU Surrey President's Advisory Committee in June 2018. A formal partnership agreement between SUILC and SFU is being developed.
- An application has been submitted to SFU's new Academy to Community Co-op Award program for a 4-month co-op student placement.

### Leadership Capacity Working Group

- SUILC secured research funding (\$15,000) from Community Foundations of Canada for a 3-month project to evaluate the potential of Indigenizing the Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC) program. After consultation with community stakeholders, it was determined that an Indigenized CLIC would not be an appropriate model. Instead, SUILC has decided to take an approach that will offer a variety of culturally appropriate leadership development opportunities for the Indigenous community.

### Awareness Building Working Group

- In April 2017, Beverly Dagg and June Laiter were formally recognized by the SUILC for their long-standing and exceptional dedication to the urban Indigenous community in Surrey. The awards presentation included a traditional blanketing ceremony and luncheon. Nominations for the 2018 SUILC awards were received in spring 2018.

- SUILC supported the City to implement Orange Shirt Day in September 2017 to commemorate Residential School Survivors. In November 2017, SUILC worked with Métis Nation BC and Nova Métis to co-ordinate a Council-in-Committee presentation and display in City Hall commemorating Louis Riel Day. SUILC collaborated on a community art project with Nova Métis and the City's Cultural Services in February 2018.
- SUILC hosted a booth at both the 2017 and 2018 National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in Surrey.
- SUILC is currently partnering with Surrey Libraries to plan an Indigenous film series for the coming fall/winter.
- An inventory of anti-racism campaigns has been compiled. SUILC plans to seek funding to conduct an anti-racism project.

#### Mixed Use Space Working Group

- To build the capacity of SUILC and Indigenous agencies, the Working Group and SUILC committee-of-the-whole have had presentations by VanCity Community Foundation staff on the process of developing social purpose real estate projects. In addition, SUILC has participated in site visits of multi-use social purpose real estate projects in Vancouver and Winnipeg.

#### Child Poverty Working Group

- An Indigenous Child Poverty Task Force was established. It includes representatives of the SUILC and Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition.
- SUILC secured a \$250,000 Vancouver Foundation grant (\$75,000 per year for three years) to conduct a social innovation lab process focused on Indigenous child poverty in Surrey.
- The social innovation lab process began with an "Introduction to Social Innovation Labs" workshop with Cheryl Rose (McConnell Foundation) in March 2018. In April 2018, a SUILC delegation visited the Winnipeg Boldness Project, a social innovation lab focused on children in Winnipeg's North End neighbourhood. SUILC held its first community consultation at National Indigenous Peoples Day; children, youth and adults were asked to respond to the question "What would make Surrey a great place for Indigenous children and youth?"

Information on the SUILC is currently available on the City's website at [www.surrey.ca/indigenous](http://www.surrey.ca/indigenous). In the coming year, SUILC plans to develop its own website as part of an overall communications strategy.

#### **City Departments: Actions to Support the All Our Relations Strategy**

The *All Our Relations Strategy* identifies SUILC as "the protagonist driving the change we want to see." It also extends an invitation to other organizations and all levels of government to join SUILC in working together to implement the *All Our Relations Strategy*.

To follow-up on Council's authorization for staff to partner with SUILC on recommendations in the *All Our Relations Strategy* for which the City can play a role, Social Planning convened an inter-departmental meeting in September 2017. At the meeting, staff was briefed on the *All Our Relations Strategy*. A process was initiated to document how City departments' activities currently align with the *All Our Relations Strategy* and to identify opportunities to augment activities.

In total, 20 staff attended the inter-departmental meeting, representing Parks, Recreation & Culture (PRC), Engineering, Human Resources (HR), and Libraries. It was decided that a separate process will be used in the future to engage with the RCMP and Public Safety.

Following the meeting, City departments completed a template outlining current and proposed activities. Staff presented the completed templates to the SUILC for review and feedback at SUILC meetings in late 2017 and early 2018.

Appendix "III" outlines City departments' current and proposed activities, including how each activity aligns with the goals contained in the *All Our Relations Strategy*. The sections below provide a few highlights.

#### Current Activities

City departments are engaged in a range of activities that represent reconciliation in action – working toward creating a City that acknowledges and addresses the experiences and needs of Surrey's growing Indigenous population. In some cases, staff has consulted with SUILC on projects that relate to the urban Indigenous community. In other cases, City staff is working alongside the local land-based First Nations. Overall, through these activities, City staff are building respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples.

#### *Planning & Development*

- Provide administrative support to SUILC. This includes managing, in collaboration with the Finance Department, external contracts, and grants secured by SUILC, and providing clerical and logistical support for SUILC meetings and projects.
- Participate in SUILC meetings and support the Indigenous consultant who has been contracted to facilitate the SUILC. This includes assisting in preparing funding applications, drafting documents, et cetera.
- Coordinate City departments' engagement with the SUILC. Planning has also been responsible for providing Council with updates on the SUILC through annual corporate reports.

#### *Surrey Libraries*

- Surrey Libraries' current Strategic Plan includes the priority to "engage with community" and specifically identifies urban Indigenous people as one of the population groups to "identify community needs and invite participation in developing programs and services".
- Surrey Libraries have an active and on-going staff Aboriginal Working Group.



- Library staff has been attending workshops and training on reconciliation.

#### *Parks, Recreation & Culture*

- Recommendations contained in the *All Our Relations Strategy* that relate to PRC were integrated into the new 10-Year PRC Strategic Plan (“the Plan”). The Plan includes Objective D3: “Achieve the City’s vision for Indigenous collaboration”. Some of the actions listed under this objective will require collaboration with the land-based First Nations in Surrey, while others are relevant to the urban Indigenous community. Actions include to:
  - Increase the visibility of traditional Coast Salish place names in Surrey;
  - Incorporate Indigenous perspectives into policy, programming and planning;
  - Acknowledge traditional Coast Salish peoples in formal events, festivals and meetings;
  - Collaborate with local First Nations and Indigenous leadership in the development of new parkland;
  - Support public awareness and education regarding Indigenous Reconciliation and collaboration;
  - Deliver staff inclusion training, aimed at building better local government relationships and understanding with Indigenous communities; and
  - Create new spaces for Indigenous ceremony and use.

#### *Community & Recreation Services Division*

- The MYzone childrens’ after-school program currently operates within the common rooms of three of Kekinow Native Housing Society’s complexes.
- “Recreation for Youth Passes” (four free drop-in passes to recreation centres) are offered to Indigenous youth through Kekinow Housing and the All Nations Youth Safe House.
- Staff is working with urban Indigenous agencies to promote the Leisure Access Pass for low income families/individuals and children in government care.

#### *Cultural Services Division*

- Verbal acknowledgement of the Indigenous lands is at the beginning of all public events, with some events including representatives from local First Nations to offer a welcome.
- Since 1999, the Surrey Art Gallery has offered a K-12 Indigenous Contemporary Art Workshop, as part of its School Programs. An Indigenous artist-educator is part of the Gallery’s education team to enhance learning about Indigenous culture and art.

- Surrey Art Gallery staff has participated in learning and development opportunities related to Indigenous peoples at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of British Columbia (UBC).

#### *Parks Division*

- Surrey has ongoing park programming that includes Indigenous content.

#### *Human Resources*

- The City has hosted Orange Shirt Day events in 2016 and 2017. Displays have been provided in the City Hall atrium for Orange Shirt Day and National Indigenous Day. An intranet posting educated staff about Louis Riel Day in 2017; in 2018, a display will be featured in the City Hall atrium.

#### *Engineering*

- Engineering's efforts have been focused on working with the land-based First Nations, specifically:
  - Developing municipal-type servicing agreements for the provision of sanitary sewer and water to support the existing residents on the Semiahmoo First Nations lands;
  - Working with City of Surrey Human Resources to seek urban Indigenous people in entry-level and/or summer positions; and
  - Exploring the possibility of a project focused on road safety and the urban Indigenous population, which is in response to the significantly higher proportion of traffic-related fatalities among Indigenous people.

#### Proposed Activities

In the process of documenting current City activities that align with the *All Our Relations Strategy*, staff identified opportunities to enhance or build upon existing activities and/or introduce new ones. In some cases, these actions could be undertaken within existing resources, while some activities would require additional budget (Appendix "III" details these budget requirements)

#### *Surrey Libraries*

- Enhance existing outreach to Indigenous agencies.
- Create an Indigenous Poet Laureate (or storyteller) in Residence at Surrey Libraries.
- Provide Indigenous children's author storytelling events.

#### *Community & Recreation Services Division*

- Expand MYzone to the additional two Kekinow Housing locations.

- Offer and expand swim lesson and water safety programs for Indigenous residents.
- Offer Early Years programs and activities that are culturally relevant and inclusive to Indigenous children.

#### *Cultural Services Division*

- Expand the Surrey Art Gallery's Indigenous Contemporary Art Workshop for schools in order to meet demand.
- Extend the Museum's Afterschool Adventures program to Kekinow Housing and the Friendship Centre on a once a month basis.
- Special Events would like to feature more Indigenous culture and arts, and more high profile Indigenous performers at Canada Day and Fusion Festival, as well as hire a coordinator to help coordinate with different Indigenous groups.

#### *Parks Division*

- Increased programming related to Indigenous culture could be developed with a specific focus on youth involvement.
- Include information about history, land use and place names of Indigenous people in Surrey in park interpretive signage, walks, and other park programming.
- The Surrey Nature Centre and Urban Forestry programs could add Indigenous content, such as cedar weaving workshops.

#### *Human Resources*

- Pilot the initiative developed by the City's Emerging Leaders Program to provide employment opportunities for three under-represented populations, including Indigenous people.
- Review all job class specifications and identify any barriers related to employment for Indigenous people.

#### *Engineering*

- Seek to retain urban Indigenous people in entry level and/or summer positions. Work with HR to identify suitable positions.
- Explore the possibility of a project focused on road safety and the urban Indigenous population (in response to the significantly higher proportion traffic-related fatalities among Indigenous people.)

### **SUILC Recommendations for Further City Action**

Overall, SUILC was very encouraged by the support and commitment of City staff and departments to work alongside the urban Indigenous community to implement the *All Our Relations Strategy*.

In response to the staff presentations, SUILC offered suggestions for Council's consideration of further actions that the City could take. SUILC's comments are attached as Appendix "IV" to this report. The sections below provide a few highlights.

#### Reconciliation

- Encourage periodic (annual or biannual) reporting by staff to Council on actions taken by City departments to implement the goals of the *All Our Relations Strategy*.

#### Support of SUILC

- Continue to provide in-kind staff and other supports to the SUILC.

#### City Committees

- Create a process to facilitate and support Indigenous representation on existing advisory committees. Track the number of Indigenous people serving on advisory committees.

#### City Staff

- Provide the opportunity for all staff to take training to become more aware of Indigenous history and culture and better equipped to support Indigenous colleagues and community. Track the number of City staff who have completed approved training.

#### Grants & Funding

- Commit to exploring with the Vancouver Foundation the establishment of a new Surrey Urban Indigenous Culture & Community Fund that the SUILC would manage expressly for planning, promoting, supporting, or implementing activities that strengthen the urban Indigenous community and share Indigenous culture with Surrey residents in the spirit of reconciliation.

#### Initiatives

- Support land acquisition for an urban Indigenous hub. Currently, SUILC is exploring options to develop a physical space for the Indigenous community that could function as a community gathering space while provide a range of social services (including housing) all under one roof. The new refugee service/housing complex (Welcome House) owned and operated by the Immigrant Services Society of BC in Vancouver is a model that we would like to replicate for urban Indigenous people in Surrey. Urban Indigenous organizations in Surrey have the mix of services and funding contracts that could sustain an Indigenous hub but the missing link is the land.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The implementation of the *All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy* supports the following Desired Outcomes (DO) and Strategic Direction (SD) identified in the Sustainability Charter 2.0.

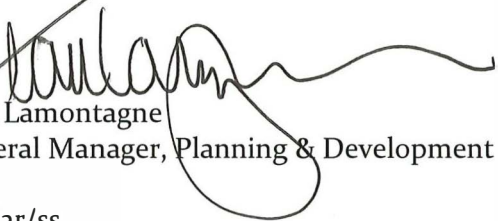
### Inclusion

- DO7:** Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment and opportunities for cultural connections.
- SD2:** Work with Aboriginal leaders to support and strengthen social innovation in the Surrey Urban Aboriginal community.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Receive this report for information;
- Authorize staff to continue to work to implement the *All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy* (the "*All Our Relations Strategy*"), as outlined in this report, and report back to Council; and
- Authorize staff to continue to work on the feasibility of implementing the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee's (SUILC) recommendations for further actions, and report back to Council, as appropriate.



Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager, Planning & Development

AM/ar/ss

- Appendix "I" Corporate Report No. R100; 2016  
Appendix "II" Corporate Report No. R193; 2017  
Appendix "III" City Department Work Plans: All Our Relations Strategy Implementation  
Appendix "IV" Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee: Comments on City of Surrey Alignment with the All Our Relations

**(Appendices Available Upon Request)**