

MOTION

6. Protocol to Acknowledge First Nations Unceded Traditional Territory

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
SECONDED by Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. On National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2013, the Mayor of the City of Vancouver took the extraordinary step of declaring a Year of Reconciliation, a year-long effort that seeks to heal from the past and build new relationships between Aboriginal peoples and all Vancouverites, built on a foundation of openness, dignity, understanding and hope;
2. The process of reconciliation has involved creating space for survivors of colonization to speak the truth about the harms done to themselves, their families and their nations; for the broader community to acknowledge those harms; and for us to find a new pathway forward together;
3. Underlying all other truths spoken during the Year of Reconciliation is the truth that the modern city of Vancouver was founded on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and that these territories were never ceded through treaty, war or surrender;
4. The Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations have millennia-old protocols for welcome, blessing and acknowledgements on their territories;
5. It is essential to the process of reconciliation that this truth is acknowledged and responded to in a form that honours tradition while understanding the ambiguity created by modern institutions that were established without respect for the people or their traditions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver formally acknowledge that the city of Vancouver is on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to invite representatives from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations to work with the Mayor to develop appropriate protocols for the City of Vancouver to use in conducting City business that respect the traditions of welcome, blessing, and acknowledgement of the territory.

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