

MOTION

Support for Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples

At its meeting on February 26, 2013, Vancouver City Council referred this item to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 27, 2013 in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED BY Councillor Reimer

WHEREAS

1. The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee is a citizen advisory committee, which provides advice to City Council on issues of importance to urban aboriginal peoples;
2. On January 23, 2013 the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee passed motions making recommendations to City Council (attached as Appendix A);
3. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was set up as part of the federal government's Residential School Survivor's settlement with aboriginal peoples and the TRC event for BC will be held in Vancouver in September 2013;
4. Reconciliation Canada is a non-profit established to expand on the work of the TRC to foster dialogue between aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples;
5. June 21st is recognized as National Aboriginal Day in Canada;
6. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an international declaration signed onto by over 145 countries, including Canada, committing to a set of actions in regards to indigenous peoples;
7. The City of Vancouver has taken steps to increase understanding between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities, through programs such as the Dialogues Project;
8. Reconciling past injustice, and strengthening shared understanding and awareness of history, is vital to both aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities in building a successful future for Vancouver;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT City Council support the Reconciliation Canada recommendation to proclaim June 21st 2013 to June 20th 2014 as the Year of Reconciliation in Vancouver, and that staff report back on the Reconciliation Canada recommendation to name Vancouver a City of Reconciliation.
- B. THAT the City of Vancouver state its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- C. THAT, in the lead up to the TRC BC event in September 2013, staff work with Reconciliation Canada and the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee to increase opportunities for dialogue and increased understanding between aboriginals and non-aboriginals regarding the experience and rights of indigenous people in Canada.

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Motions passed by Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee, January 23, 2013

1. Regarding Reconciliation Canada

MOVED by Kim Washburn
SECONDED by Penny Irons

THAT the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council adopt all the recommendations of Reconciliation Canada, specifically the following:

- the Year of Reconciliation
- naming Vancouver the City of Reconciliation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Regarding Idle No More

MOVED by Penny Irons
SECONDED by Kim Washburn

THAT the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver recognize the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Right in light of Idle no More and Reconciliation Canada.
- B. THAT Council support teach-ins throughout the City of Vancouver regarding the rights of indigenous peoples to bridge the gaps of First Nations and the rest of Canadians. Teach-ins should include the Canadian Government changes to bills C45 and C38, and any other changes that affect Aboriginal people.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY