



# Response on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action in the City of Reconciliation

Date: January 19, 2016  
Presenters: Wendy Au & Ginger Gosnell-Myers



# The City of Vancouver is embracing reconciliation for meaningful change

- On February 26, 2013 Council endorses the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- Council proclaims June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014 as the *Year of Reconciliation* in the City of Vancouver.
- On June 25, 2014 Council acknowledges that Vancouver is on the *unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh* First Nations.



  
VANCOUVER  
**YEAR OF RECONCILIATION**  
JUNE 21, 2013 - JUNE 20, 2014

# City Council took the extraordinary step to designate Vancouver as a City of Reconciliation...

...The process of reconciliation is not the act of one year, and indeed may not be the act of one generation. It is a long term effort that takes seriously the responsibility of creating systemic change and new relations based on mutual understanding and respect;

...Therefore be it resolved that Council reaffirm its commitment to designating Vancouver a City of Reconciliation.

July 8, 2014

City of Reconciliation Framework

Cultural Competency ➡ Effective Decision-Making ➡ Strengthening Partnerships



# Recognition of unceded Coast Salish Territory is the new norm



City Council brushing off ceremony, December 2014



VPL's néčá?mat ct Strathcona branch groundbreaking and ceremony

# The City responded to the TRC Calls to Action report

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> Council passed a motion stating “many of the recommendations in the TRC Final Report are actionable by the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. That staff report back to Council no later than September 30, 2015, with recommendations on how to move forward on the actions recommended by the TRC which are within the City’s jurisdiction to act.
- B. That Council request the VSB, VPD, and VPL consider a similar review of the TRC recommendations.

June 21, 2015 | Updated : June 21, 2015 | 2:55 pm AA Adjust

## Vancouver councillor calls for action on Truth and Reconciliation Commission

By Emily Jackson  
Metro

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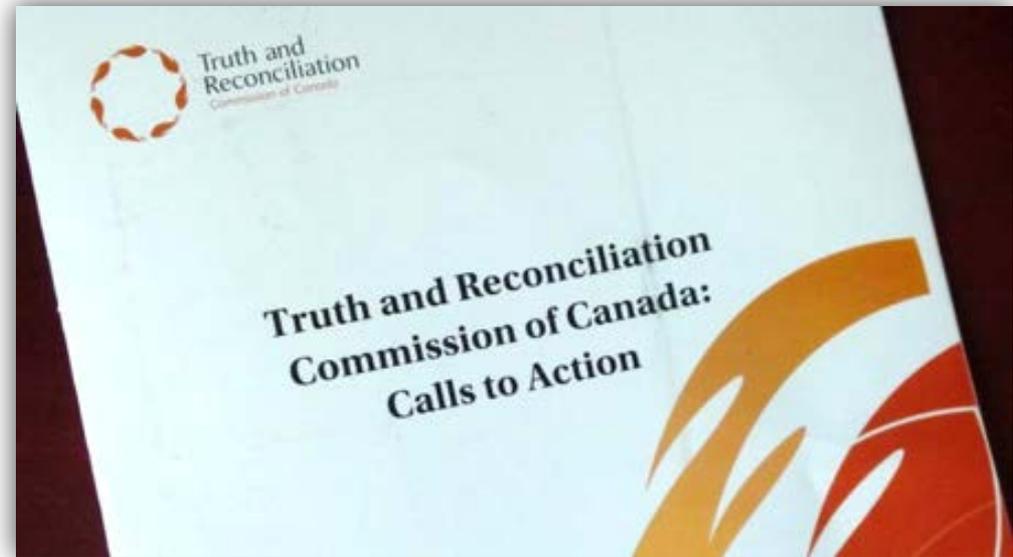


FINISHED YOUR RESIGNATION LETT MONTHS AGO?

# TRC Calls to Action

There are 94 recommendations within the TRC Calls to Action final report.

Our analysis has identified 27 as actionable areas for the City to move forward on.



The TRC Calls to Action that align with the City's work can be summarized under three themes:

1. Healthy Communities and Wellness
2. Achieving Indigenous Human Rights and Recognition
3. Advancing Awareness, Knowledge, and Capacity

# 1. Healthy Communities and Wellness

- #5: Child Welfare
- #7, 9, 12: Education
- #17: Language and Culture
- #21, 22: Health
- #66: Youth
- #38, 40: Justice
- #90: Sports and Reconciliation



Reconciliation fund for projects

Support for Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Centres

Grants to host Indigenous sporting events

## 2. Achieving Indigenous Human Rights and Recognition

- #43, 44: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- #47: Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation
- #67: Museums and Archives
- #91: Sports and Reconciliation



Adopting the UNDRIP

Recognition of unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territory

Supporting civic institutions on repatriation efforts

# 3. Advancing Awareness, Knowledge, and Capacity

- #57: Professional Development and Training for Public Servants
- #62, 63: Education for Reconciliation
- #68, 69: Museums and Archives
- #78: National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- #80, 83: Commemoration
- #87: Sports and Reconciliation
- #92: Business in Reconciliation
- #93: Newcomers to Canada



Cultural competency training for senior City managers and staff

Recording histories and stories through the VPL Inspiration Lab

Release of the First Peoples: Guide for Newcomers

# Becoming a City of Reconciliation is a long term process

Our work undertaken since 2014 to provide a foundation based on understanding, acknowledgment, and respect has reached all aspects of decision-making and programming.



# A Vision Statement will help guide the incorporation of reconciliation into our work

As a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver will form a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Aboriginal community, including key agencies, to incorporate a First Nations and Urban Aboriginal perspective into the work undertaken and decisions made by the City of Vancouver and, ultimately, to provide services that benefit members of these communities.

# Development of Long Term Goals will provide clarity, guidance, and accountability

- Strengthen local First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Relations
- Promote Aboriginal Peoples Arts, Culture, Awareness and Understanding
- Incorporate First Nations and Urban Aboriginal perspectives for effective City services

# Our commitment

The legacy of the TRC will continue through our efforts by:

- Demonstrating Council's commitment towards a City of Reconciliation;
- Acting as a leader in furthering the long term work of reconciliation; and,
- Engaging the broader public and our diverse citizens in developing new relationships and to move forward with a shared understanding and respect.

# Looking forward ~ 2016

- Implementation of TRC Calls to Action
- Cultural competency training
- Reconciliation funding for projects
- New Aboriginal staff positions
- Canada 150 celebration planning
- Development of Reconciliation indicators and evaluation measures





**"A period of change is beginning, that if sustained by the will of the people, will forever realign the shared history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada."**

**Justice Murray Sinclair,  
TRC Chair**