

MOTION

9. National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

At the Regular Council meeting on January 24, 2017, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 25, 2017, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1. The Federal Government committed to an inquiry and the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls Inquiry Commissioners are currently in the process of setting up their offices in Vancouver;
2. The City's Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee (UAPAC) was concerned that, as was the case for those testifying at the provincial inquiry, witnesses at the federal inquiry will be re-living trauma and experiencing emotional trauma, and as a result that they need support to effectively give a voice to the missing and murdered women;
3. In response to these concerns, UAPAC and City staff met with the members of the Coalition on Missing and Murdered Women and Girls to identify some ways in which the City, non-profits and local women-serving organizations can best support those testifying at the Inquiry;
4. On July 8, 2014, Council passed a motion to designate Vancouver as a City of Reconciliation and on January 19, 2016, Council accepted the City's review of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action report which included a commitment by the City to 41 specific actions;
5. The City accepted the recommendations of "Forsaken: The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry", committed to acting on those recommendations, and formally recognized the devastating impact on family members, loved ones and the broader community of the loss of so many indigenous women;
6. The City supported the call for a national public inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee to convene a full day workshop with frontline organizations that support the family and loved ones of missing and murdered women and girls in order to identify the needs of family and loved ones in testifying, and how the organizations, the City and other levels of government can best provide that support.

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