

MOTION

4. Walk for Reconciliation Commemorations

At the Regular Council meeting on October 3, 2017, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on October 4, 2017, in order to obtain additional information.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson
SECONDED by Councillor Reimer

WHEREAS

1. On National Indigenous Peoples Day 2013 the City of Vancouver became the first city in Canada to proclaim a Year of Reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples;
2. Over the course of the Year of Reconciliation, the City worked together with the three local First Nations, urban indigenous people and Reconciliation Canada to undertake many events that had three objectives:
 - Make the space for indigenous people to speak the truth about the harms caused to them by colonization
 - Make the space for non-indigenous people to acknowledge that they have heard these truths
 - Find a new pathway forward together;
3. The centerpiece was Canada's first ever Walk for Reconciliation, which saw over 70,000 people gather at the plaza adjacent to the QE Theatre (referenced as "QE Plaza" below) in a torrential September downpour to walk together in recognition of residential school survivors, and to acknowledge those that did not survive, after a week of testimony at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event at the PNE grounds;
4. In the interval since 2013, the City has declared itself a City of Reconciliation and significant work has been done to advance social, economic, environmental and other policies that recognize the inherent courage, resilience and rights of indigenous people and help ensure that the local First Nations are once again visible in their traditional homelands but to date no prominent public space in downtown Vancouver carries the name or visual identity of the local First Nations;

5. 2017 is the 150th anniversary of Confederation and under the banner of "150+" City Council unanimously committed to significantly advancing reconciliation this year;
6. As one of the Signature Events for 150+ a 2nd Walk for Reconciliation was held on September 24, 2017 which again saw tens of thousands of residents gather together in the "QE Plaza" with reflection and remembrance but also a celebration of the work that's been done;
7. The "QE Plaza" also was the home of the Four Host Nations Pavilion during the 2010 Olympics;
8. For decades the Vancouver Art Gallery north plaza has been a central gathering place for public protests, celebrations, and rallies and a space where Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples have pushed to make our city acknowledge its injustices and work towards greater understanding;
9. These two public plazas do not have official names or even consistent informal names used by the community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The City work with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh to find an appropriate name and a commemoration of the Walks for Reconciliation for the plaza adjacent to the QE Theatre in recognition of the significant role the plaza has played in both historic events.
- B. The City work with the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and the Province of BC to determine an appropriate name and an acknowledgement of the three local First Nations for the Vancouver Art Gallery north plaza, the most utilized public space in Vancouver, to ensure the work of reconciliation remains visible to all people present and future in Vancouver.

* * * * *