

# Implementing UNDRIP at the City of Vancouver

Update of the MSTV Intergovernmental Table to  
Vancouver City Council  
November 14, 2023



## Acknowledgement

*We respectfully acknowledge the unceded territory of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil Waututh) Nations. We are grateful to live and work on these lands, and acknowledge the responsibility we have to ensure the land is taken care of respectfully.*

# Agenda

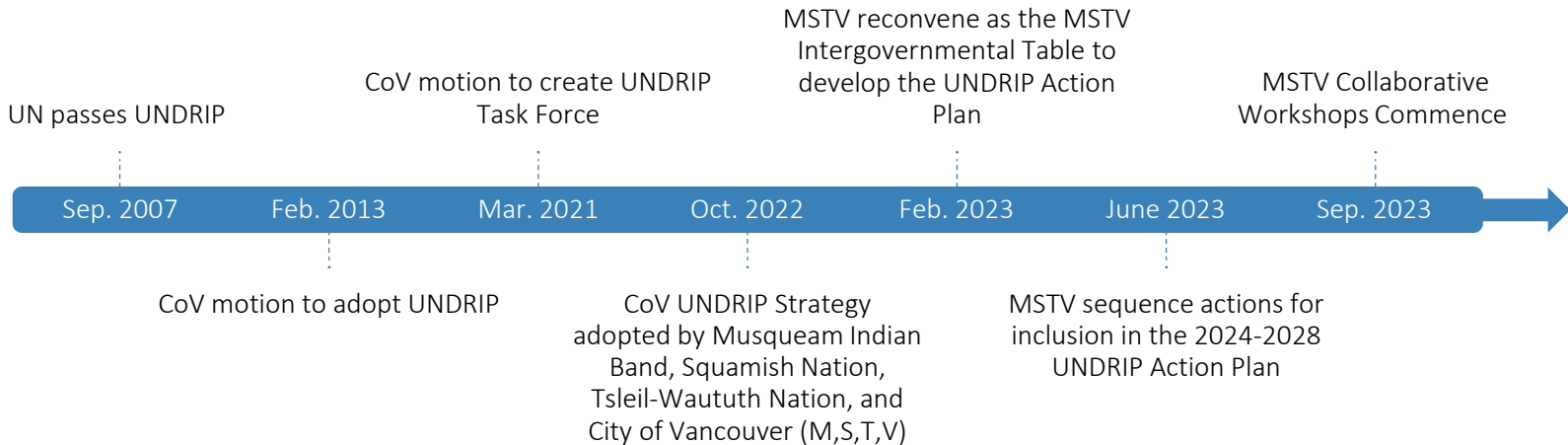
1. Background
  - a. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
  - b. City of Vancouver UNDRIP Strategy
2. Developing a 5-year Action Plan for Implementation
3. Early Action Progress Update
4. Next Steps

# 1: Background



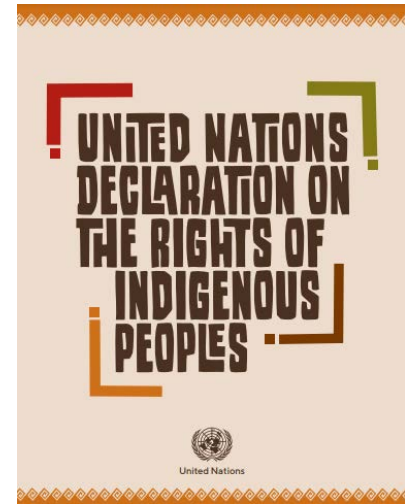


# The Journey (so far)



## UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

- Most comprehensive international human rights instrument regarding Indigenous Peoples
- Establishes the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples
- Includes a broad spectrum of rights that apply to Indigenous Peoples as individuals and/or collectives including:
  - Rights to be free from discrimination or attempts at assimilation
  - Rights to language and religious, spiritual and/or cultural practices
  - Rights to self-determined political, social, cultural and economic development
  - Rights to traditional lands and territories



## UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Specifically, the articles of the declaration address topics such as:

- Self-determination & self-government
- Equality & non-discrimination
- Culture and language
- Identity and community
- Religion & spirituality
- Lands, territories & resources
- Environmental stewardship
- Indigenous Intellectual property rights
- Health
- Education
- Redress, restitution and free prior and informed consent
- Respect for existing treaties, agreements, & other constructive arrangements

## UNDRIP Implementation at other levels of government



Other levels of government have passed legislation to implement UNDRIP

- **B.C.** passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* into law in November 2019
- **Canada** passed the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in June 2021
- B.C. and Canada have both developed Action Plans to support implementation of UNDRIP



## City of Vancouver Council Direction

Since 2021, the City of Vancouver has been on a journey with Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation to implement UNDRIP at the City

- **Task Force established March 2021:** Task Force of the three Nations and City Councillors was established by a motion of City Council
- **UNDRIP Strategy endorsed October 2022:** City Council endorses the COV UNDRIP Strategy and directs staff to (1) work collaboratively to develop an Action Plan on implementation and (2) maintain an intergovernmental process for carrying the work

## The Task Force's City of Vancouver UNDRIP Strategy

- The Task Force collaboratively developed the City of Vancouver UNDRIP Strategy
- The Strategy has 79 Calls to Action, grounded in UNDRIP articles and rights, and has been reviewed by external experts and advisors
- The Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Councils reviewed and endorsed this Strategy
- First process of this kind – truly collaborative process that has strengthened the relationship between the four governments

### *Four Themes in the Strategy:*

- 1. Social, cultural and economic well-being*
- 2. Ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination*
- 3. Self-determination and inherent right of self-government*
- 4. Title and rights of Indigenous Peoples*

## 2: Developing a 5 year Action Plan for Implementation



## Developing an Action Plan for Implementing the UNDRIP Strategy

- Next step: Of the 79 Actions in the Strategy, where do we focus our efforts collectively in the first 5 years?
- To do this work, the UNDRIP Task Force was reconvened in 2023 as the UNDRIP MSTV Intergovernmental Table
- The Table is working with staff at all four governments to collaboratively develop the 5-year Action Plan which will come to each Nation's government and City Council for endorsement in 2024

## Members of the UNDRIP MSTV Intergovernmental Table

1. Councillor qiyəplənəx<sup>w</sup> (Howard Grant), Musqueam Indian Band
2. Councillor Allyson Fraser, Musqueam Indian Band
3. Council Chairperson Khelsilem, Squamish Nation (Co-Chair)
4. Councillor Tiyáltelut (Kristen) Rivers, Squamish Nation
5. Councillor Ts'simtelot (Charlene Aleck), Tsleil-Waututh Nation
6. Councillor Whonoak (Dennis Thomas), Tsleil-Waututh Nation
7. Councillor Rebecca Bligh, City of Vancouver
8. Councillor Christine Boyle, City of Vancouver (Co-Chair)
9. Councillor Adriane Carr, City of Vancouver
10. Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, City of Vancouver



*The Intergovernmental Table is supported by staff from all four governments*

# 3: Update on Early Actions



## Early Action Implementation General Updates

- City staff continue the process with Early Action implementation.
- City staff are working at the "speed of trust" and progress to date is largely incremental and focused on building the right foundation for change. Progress is not being measured by pace of work but rather through trust building and collaborative, incremental progress with the Nations.

**Progress on Early Actions  
Approved by Vancouver City  
Council June 7, 2022**

- 1. Commencement of Commemoration Policy Framework consultations with M,S,T (Early Action 1)**
  - a) This phase involves joint meetings with ACCS, VPB, and IR. Next steps include creating the Commemoration Framework, including naming and commemoration policy, evaluation criteria, and collaboration with Nations. A report will be presented to Council & Park Board in Q1 2024.
  
- 2. Advancing development of a Historical Atlas (Early Action 2)**
  - a) City staff met with the authors of the Stó:lō Coast Salish Historical Atlas to learn more about their development process
  - b) Next steps include working with M,S,T to determine the scope of the Atlas and signing an agreement to support Nation staff involvement on its development.



**Progress on Early Actions  
Approved by Vancouver City  
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- 3. Expanding the City's Procurement Policy to Prioritize Indigenous Participation (Early Action 3)**
  - a) Initiated discussions on Indigenous Procurement with M,S,T
  - b) Presented CoV Supply Chain Management organizational structure and current Social Procurement framework objectives, targets, and achievements
  - c) Discussed the outcomes each Nation envisions for these actions
  
- 4. Ensuring M,S,T, presence and representation in the Public Realm (Early Action 4)**
  - a) Secured funding for Squamish Nation ethnography with Gassy Jack's descendants to inform future work. In progress: developing RFP for kiosk at Maple Tree Square with Squamish Nation. Discussions are ongoing with M,S,T for better public realm representation.

## Progress on Early Actions Approved by Vancouver City Council June 7, 2022

5. Improving the events process to support better partnerships with M,S,T (Early Action 5)
  - a) City staff have commenced early planning for a consultative approach with M,S,T on third-party and City events, and staff continue to identify areas to streamline the events permitting process across the three main permitting branches (ENG, DBL, PB)
  
6. Building foundational knowledge for City employees on Indigenous rights, history, racism, and respectful relations (Early Action 6)
  - a) Convened an internal group to review Early Action 6
  - b) Held two Indigenous Relations and Consultation training courses for 85+ City staff.
  - c) Compiled a list of training and development consultants from M,S,T for review by the Nations.
  - d) Planning to assess and enhance the Decolonization and Reconciliation learning pathway within the City's Justice, Equity, Diversity Inclusion (JEDI) framework.

# 4: Next Steps



## Context for moving forward

- Transformational, multi-year work prioritizing Indigenous inclusion
- Building upon work already started
- Doing things in a new way
- Working collaboratively with the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>ə́yəm (Musqueam), S<sub>k</sub>w<sub>x</sub>wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil Waututh) Nations. at every step
- Building stronger relationships with the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>ə́yəm (Musqueam), S<sub>k</sub>w<sub>x</sub>wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil Waututh) Nations, and the diverse population of Indigenous people living in the City

## Next Steps

1. City and Nation staff will continue to make progress on implementing the Early Actions.
2. In 2024, the MSTV Intergovernmental Table will bring a 5-year Action Plan to the Nations' Councils and Vancouver City Council with a recommendation to endorse.
3. Pending approval of the Action Plan, staff from the City and each Nation will work together to advance and implement the Action Plan.
4. Staff from each government will provide ongoing, annual updates to their Councils on progress made.



THANK YOU

