

The City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Action Plan

MSTV Intergovernmental Table to Vancouver City Council

June 25th, 2024



Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (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.

Purpose Today

To present and seek Council endorsement of the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Action Plan (2024-2028)

Agenda

1. Council Recommendations
2. Background: UNDRIP and COV UNDRIP Strategy
3. Co-Developing the COV UNDRIP Action Plan
4. Overview of the COV UNDRIP Action Plan
5. Moving Forward in a Good Way and Key Next Steps

1: Recommendations



Recommendations

- A. THAT Council endorse the UNDRIP Action Plan, direct staff to begin implementation of the UNDRIP Action Plan deliverables over the next five years, and report back on progress with an annual public report to Council and a mid-point public update.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back for Council decision where implementation of an UNDRIP Action Plan deliverable would have legal implications for the City.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to integrate the financial and resource requirements for implementation of the 2024-2028 UNDRIP Action Plan into the City's annual budgeting processes for Council decision.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to continue the inter-governmental process for carrying out this next phase of work, to facilitate Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh's review of shared workplans, work prioritization and ongoing engagement.
- E. THAT Council refer the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Action Plan to the Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Police Board, Vancouver Public Library Board, and Vancouver School Board, and encourage them to adopt the Action Plan and collaborate on co-implementation of relevant Actions within.

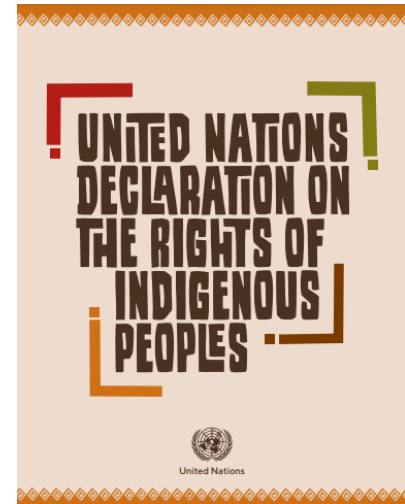
2: Background – UNDRIP and COV

UNDRIP Strategy



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



In June 2024, the City of Vancouver celebrated 10 years as a **City of Reconciliation**

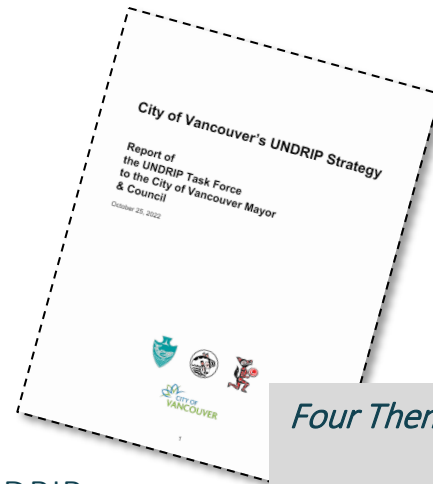
Since 2021, the City has been on a journey to implement UNDRIP at a municipal level:

- **COV Supports UNDRIP February 2013:** City Council passes Motion to support UNDRIP
- **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

Vancouver is the first municipality to co-develop an UNDRIP Strategy and Action Plan

The 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*

Distinction-based Approach

- **Unique & Distinct Rights:** Recognition that Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation hold unique title and rights as the original stewards and governments of these lands. These collective, land-based rights are distinct from the rights of the diverse urban Indigenous residents from other territories who have come to live on these lands.
- With approval from the Task Force, the City has adopted the definition of a distinctions-based approach outlined in the Province of British Columbia's [Distinctions-Based Approach Primer](#).

3: Co-Developing the COV UNDRIP Action Plan

Unveiling
Vancouver's UNDRIP
Action Plan (2024-2028)



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Reconvening to develop an Action Plan

- The UNDRIP Task Force was reconvened in 2023 as the UNDRIP MSTV Intergovernmental Table (IG Table)
- To develop an Action Plan, staff and leadership from four governments collaborated to determine...of 79 Actions in the Strategy, *where do we focus our efforts collectively in the first 5 years?*
- The draft was developed through a collaborative co-development process which has strengthened relationship between all parties
 - Created a true partnership with all four governments
 - Process that moves towards meaningful reconciliation with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh

Members of the UNDRIP MSTV Intergovernmental Table



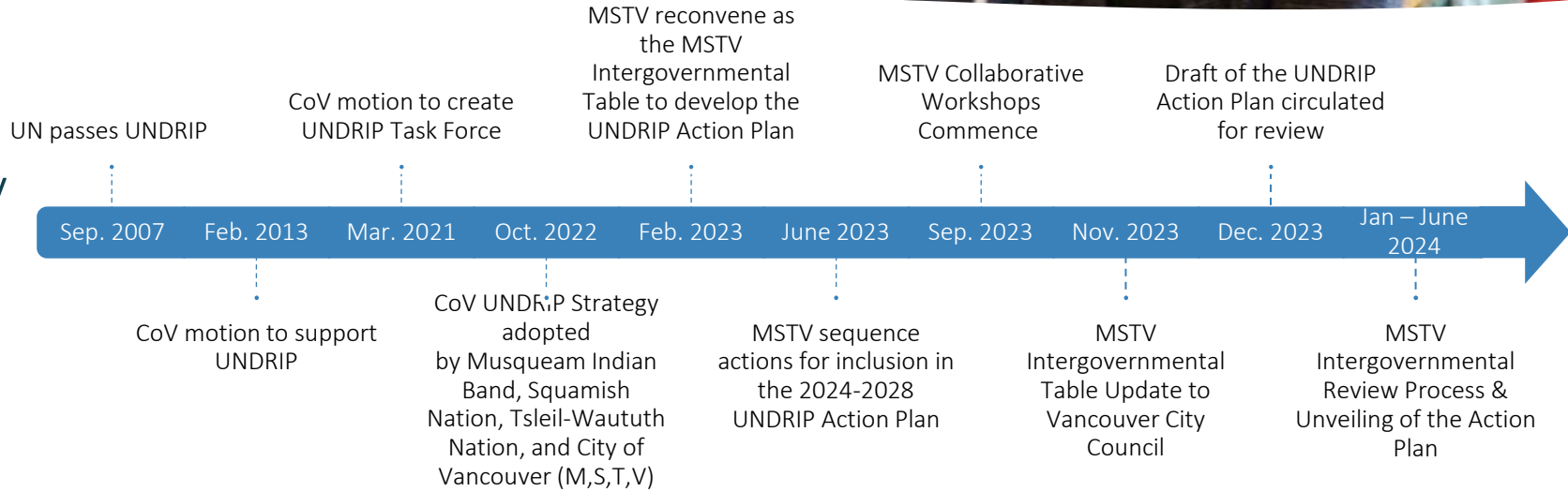
1. Councillor qiyəplənəx^w (Howard Grant), Musqueam Indian Band
2. Councillor Allyson Fraser, Musqueam Indian Band
3. Council Chairperson Khelsilem, Squamish Nation (Co-Chair)
4. Councillor Tiyáltelut (Kristen Rivers), Squamish Nation
5. Councillor Ts'simtelot (Charlene Aleck), Tsleil-Waututh Nation
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



Journey (so far)



Unveiling the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Action Plan (2024-2028)



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Urban Indigenous Engagement



There are many urban Indigenous people who call Vancouver home. Taking a distinctions-based approach, the City is leading an important parallel process to hear from about their needs, priorities, and how they wish to be engaged.

- Over fall 2023 to spring 2024 the City heard hosted several in-person engagements
- Four key themes emerged: **1. Right Relations, 2. Representation, 3. Well-Being, and 4. Anti-Racism**
- Findings were reported back to the MSTV Intergovernmental Table
- City staff are now working to develop a fulsome framework for ongoing engagement with the diverse Indigenous people living in the City.



4: Overview of the COV UNDRIP Action Plan



Action Plan overview

5 Themes in the Action Plan:

1. Relationship
Foundations

2. Redress,
Housing and Land

3. Cultural
Presence

4. Stewardship
and Addressing
Environmental
Racism

5. Communication
and Accountability

Within the 5 themes are 18 Action Groups containing a total of 88 deliverables

Many of the actions are transformational and may span more than one 5-year action plan. All the actions in the 2024-2028 Action Plan will be started and have incremental progress which will be tracked and reported regularly, though not all will be complete by 2028.

1. Relationship Foundations

Necessary support for the rest of the work that we are doing

Action Groups:

1. Capacity Funding
2. Urban Indigenous Engagement
3. Training
4. Implementation Governance
5. Relationship Framework

2. Redress, Housing and Land

Partnership in Action

Action Groups:

- 6. Redress and Economic Reconciliation
- 7. Housing
- 8. Procurement

3. Cultural Presence

Having community members see themselves reflected in the social fabric of the city

Action Groups:

9. Public Realm
10. Major Events
11. Historical Atlas
12. Institutional Representation
13. Cultural Access

4. Stewardship, and Addressing Environmental Racism

Practicing what has been practiced since time immemorial

Action Groups:

14. Addressing Environmental Racism

15. Infrastructure and Environment

5. Communication and Accountability

Ensuring that this lives not just with the government, but with everyone

Action Groups:

16. Public Accountability

17. Work with Partners

18. Legislation

5: Moving Forward



Moving forward in a good way

- Transformational, multi-year work prioritizing Indigenous inclusion
- Building upon work already started
- Doing things in a new way
- Working collaboratively with the x^wməθk^wə́yəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwə́təł (Tsleil Waututh) Nations at every step
- Building stronger relationships with the x^wməθk^wə́yəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwə́təł (Tsleil Waututh) Nations, and the diverse population of Indigenous people living in the City

Moving at the Speed of Trust

- **Strong Foundation:** City staff are laying a strong foundation for change, emphasizing incremental progress and collaborative trust-building with Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.
- **Flexibility & Trust:** The ability to maintain flexibility and trust, as we collaboratively build a new process together, will be critical to thoughtfully and impactfully move the work forward.

Next Steps (if endorsed today)

- Begin collaborative implementation which will include bringing actions to Council for decision when required.
- Many of the actions in the Action Plan relate to work underway, are able to be integrated into existing workplans, or relate to work that can be adapted
- Staff will also report back to Council where the implementation of specific actions have legal implications for the City.
- Annual progress reporting to Council including which actions will be prioritized for the upcoming year, and mid-point public update.

Recommendations

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THANK YOU

