

2022-2023 White Goose Flying Annual Progress Update

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council:

1. Establish an annual Regular Council Meeting with an Indigenous focus during the month of September, starting in 2024;
2. Direct Administration to incorporate the additional Regular Council Meeting into the Council Calendar for consideration at the annual Organizational Meeting of Council; and
3. Direct Administration to bring the next Progress Report on White Goose Flying to the 2024 September meeting of Council.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the 2021 confirmation of children's unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian residential school, Council reaffirmed its commitment to truth and reconciliation and directed Administration to submit a White Goose Flying annual progress update to Calgarians.
- While there are success to the calls to action, improvement areas remain, and Administration continues to move the work forward. See Attachment 2 for more detail.
- The White Goose Flying annual progress report helps to demonstrate that The City of Calgary remains committed to advancing the work around truth and reconciliation and the calls to action. A Leger poll conducted on the second anniversary of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation found that 70 per cent of Albertans understood why reconciliation is important for Indigenous people and Canada as a whole.
- Council and the Executive Leadership Team have stressed that reconciliation is the responsibility of all employees and leaders who work for The City.
- 2022-2023 highlights of the advancement of calls to action include:
 - Moving forward on Council's \$1 million investment made in 2021 for an Indian Residential School Memorial through the establishment of an Elders' Advisory Committee and completion of engagement with Indigenous people and Calgarians;
 - The Indigenous Gathering Place Notice of Motion (EC2022-0150) and subsequent work to prepare land in and around the confluence;
 - Approval of ceremonial space at the Municipal Building; and
 - Indigenous placemaking and identification of culturally significant areas in City parks.
- Council recognizes that sufficient resources are necessary to fully advance calls to action in the White Goose Flying Report and allocated \$1.5 million in one-time operating funds to support reconciliation in the 2023-2026 budget cycle.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2015 final report, Council directed the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee, a citizen advisory committee to Council, to identify which of the 93 calls of action were actionable by The City. The result was the 2016 White

2022-2023 White Goose Flying Annual Progress Update

Goose Flying Report which identified 43 calls to action across three categories: Own, Partner and Encourage. Following the confirmation of children's unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, a White Goose Flying Report update was presented to the Priorities and Finance Committee and adopted by Council in June 2021. The report showed that while The City had made progress on numerous calls to action, there was still more it could do to advance truth and reconciliation.

To better understand of The City's successes and challenges with the advancement of calls to action, the Indigenous Relations Office and Engage Resource Unit conducted ReconciliACTION sessions in the spring of 2022 with 60 internal contributors identified in the White Goose Flying Report.

The internal contributors reported several successes with the advancement of calls to action in 2022-2023, including:

1. The Indian Residential School memorial investment, establishment of an Elders' Advisory Committee and engagement with Calgarians and Indigenous people;
2. The Indigenous Gathering Place Notice of Motion, and work to prepare land in and around the confluence;
3. Approval of ceremonial space at the Municipal Building;
4. Indigenous placemaking and identification of culturally significant areas in City parks;
5. Application of a parallel engagement framework to create an ethical space for Indigenous people living in Calgary and The City to collaborate and better understand housing needs for urban Indigenous people;
6. Consistent efforts to increase Indigenous awareness of staff and leaders through internal and external training and inviting Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to speak at City events; and
7. Successfully hosting Indigenous Awareness Week, Orange Shirt Day and Métis Week.

A fulsome account of The City's implementation of calls to action in 2022-2023 can be found in Attachment 2.

Several internal contributors envisaged additional resources, expanding leadership support, and including truth and reconciliation in service plans and budgets, to further advance associated calls to action. Council recognized that the implementation of calls to action requires resources and allocated funding to the Indigenous Relations Office to increase capacity to support reconciliation in the 2023-2026 budget cycle.

There is an opportunity for The City to bring more focused attention to the work being done to advance the calls to action by dedicating a Council meeting to highlight the White Goose Flying Annual Update Report and other related work to share with Indigenous Communities and Calgarians.

As the first White Goose Flying Annual Progress Update, this report serves as a baseline from which to measure progress on the implementation of calls to action. Statuses have been determined through a self-reporting process. Next steps include establishing an internal contributor group and meeting quarterly to capture department progress on White Goose Flying commitments, further explore the suggestions of the internal contributors by engaging with Corporate Planning and Performance to determine how to capture The City's Truth and Reconciliation advancements within the corporate service plans and budgets and reporting back to Council in September of 2024 on the next White Goose Flying Annual report.

2022-2023 White Goose Flying Annual Progress Update

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

The internal contributors were identified in the White Goose Flying Report as the business units responsible for implementing associated calls to action. Sixty internal contributors were engaged through three facilitated ReconciliACTION sessions in the spring of 2022 where success, challenges, opportunities and solutions were discussed. In addition, senior executive advisors from contributing departments were engaged and further validated the progress report and attachments. Broad external engagement was not required as the intent of the White Goose Flying Annual Progress Update is to report through the Executive Committee about what The City of Calgary has done to implement truth and reconciliation calls to action.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The advancement of truth and reconciliation calls to action is a key contributor to establishing mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous people and communities. Through reconciliation and relationship building, The City can better understand the needs and aspirations of Indigenous people and support their inclusion in civic life. There are beneficial impacts that reconciliation, and the diverse perspectives of Indigenous people, can have on everyday decision making.

Environmental

The City's reconciliation efforts include learning from Indigenous people about their worldviews, including the interconnectedness of all living things, their respectful relationships with land and nature and incorporating Indigenous environmental stewardship and sustainable practices into climate action plans.

Economic

Reconciliation includes economic reconciliation, and offers The City an opportunity to create meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships that will contribute to collective economic prosperity. This includes addressing economic disparities experienced by Indigenous people through corporate structures and processes, creating improved employment opportunities and increased inclusion of Indigenous people in the full spectrum of economic opportunities.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

There are no additional costs in reporting back to Council with the implementation of the calls to action in the White Goose Flying Report. However, should Council wish to advance progress at a greater pace, additional funds and direction to Administration will be required.

2022-2023 White Goose Flying Annual Progress Update

RISK

Identified Risk	Likelihood & Impact to The City and Community	Impacts to priorities, desired results, and policies	Corporate Strategies to ensure success
Limited progress on reconciliation if there are not sufficient resources and support for associated business units to advance calls to action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative impact to The City's reputation and credibility Negative impact on Indigenous relations Citizen and Indigenous people mistrust towards The City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitments to calls to action in White Goose Flying not fully delivered on Indigenous Policy ways forward not implemented Leader-to-leader relations impeded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make reconciliation a priority at all levels of the corporation Provide resources to units responsible for reconciliation Include advancement of truth and reconciliation in business planning cycles

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Direction, Background
2. The City of Calgary's Implementation of Calls to Action in the White Goose Flying Report - Annual Progress Report 2022-2023
3. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Chris Arthurs	People, Innovation, Collaborative and Services	Approve
Carla Male	Corporate Planning and Financial Services	Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Inform
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Inform
Stuart Dalgleish	Planning & Development Services	Inform
Jill Floen	Law, Legislative Services & Security	Inform
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Inform
David Duckworth	City Manager's Office	Inform