

## Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee's (CAUAC) Recommendations on Truth & Reconciliation Calls-to-Action for The City of Calgary

### Background

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Summary Report raises awareness about federal policies intended to assimilate Indian children, and presents the true history and legacy of Indian residential schools in Canada, sheds light on survivor impacts over several generations, details consequences of colonization, and provides an enlightened opportunity to understand historical impacts on Indigenous people.

In 2015 June, Calgary City Council asked its advisory committee Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC), to recommend which of the 94 Calls to Action identified in the *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future; Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada* (2015) were within The City's jurisdiction that could be advanced (NM2015-17).

To realize Council's request, CAUAC members committed to reading the Summary Report in its entirety; examining all 94 Calls to Action; undertaking in-depth discussions; and to conducting qualitative research on the topic of colonial policies targeting First Nations children in residential schools. The results are provided in CAUAC's report called *White Goose Flying*; a local response in Treaty 7 area to TRC Calls to Action. In some instances the Calls to Action put forward in this report, while not specifically targeted at municipal governments, were identified in the spirit of reconciliation. CAUAC developed the following criteria for selection:

- directed specifically at municipalities, or 'all levels of government';
- feasible, and where The City has the ability to implement, partner or advocate;
- impactful enough to reach the greatest number of individuals and families (non-Indigenous Calgarians included); and
- aligned to existing City initiatives and policies.

CAUAC is concerned that audiences who have not had the opportunity to read the full TRC report and Calls to Action may deem this summary report as complicated to understand. For that reason, CAUAC has summarized its proposed Calls to Action recommendations in this format;

- A. From the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM): Calls to Action containing the word "municipal" are embedded in the "Own" section except for two which are awaiting action by other orders of government as a prerequisite for City action.
- B. Own: 18 Calls to Action (organized in five streams) requiring the highest level of City commitment to action.
- C. Partner: 12 Calls to Action requiring collaboration between The City and external partners.
- D. Encourage: 13 Calls to Action requiring community leaders to play a significant role in reconciliation.

One Call to Action on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, asking for a national inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, is being addressed by Canada's federal government. A national inquiry is underway and for this reason the Call to Action #41 will not be addressed in this report.

**Appendix 1** details the full wording of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Summary Report that CAUAC is recommending for the City of Calgary to advance.

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The following tables provide details on the 43 Calls to Action recommended by CAUAC, each requiring a varying degree of response from Council and Administration. Business units named in the following tables have been approached and agreed in principle to further development of implementation plans for the initiatives. The next stage involves business units finalizing their respective responses to Calls to Action. Full wording of the Calls to Action follow in the Appendix to this attachment.

<b>A. FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM):</b> Five Calls to Action identified by FCM for containing the word ‘municipal.’		
<i>Calls To Action</i>	<i>CAUAC’s Recommendation</i>	<i>Rationale and Alignments</i>
<b>#43:</b> adopting the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)</i> .	CAUAC recommends that Council postpone adoption of this CTA until the Federal government take their position on it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue the UNDRIP principles in the forthcoming Indigenous Policy Framework (IPF) slated for completion in 2017 May.</li> <li>• The forthcoming Indigenous Policy Framework will outline a path for The City to advance in terms of reconciliation.</li> </ul>
<b>#47:</b> repudiating concepts used to justify Euro-specific sovereignty ( <i>Doctrine of Discovery</i> ).	CAUAC recommends that Council postpone adoption of this CTA until the federal government declares it position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAUAC aligned its 2014 Strategic Plan with concepts of decolonizing systemic practices drawn from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>imagineCalgary</u> principles (target 56: By 2020, all public institutions and systems create and implement an urban Aboriginal policy that recognized the detrimental colonial history experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit people; reduces barriers to public participation and governance; and supports economic, social and political advancement)</li> <li>○ Forthcoming Indigenous Policy Framework (IPF) slated for completion in 2017 May will outline a path for The City to move forward in terms of reconciliation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>#57:</b> awareness training to public sector staff. <b>Moved to “Own” section for Implementation</b>	CAUAC recommends that The City’s Human Resources BU scope the requirements needed to build a plan to provide education and awareness to City employees on the history of residential schools, treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff training in Indigenous issues will provide a good foundation for The City to take action on #43 and #47, at such time as they become actionable.</li> <li>• The City’s emphasis on improving corporate culture and inclusiveness is leveraged further through Indigenous awareness training.</li> </ul>
<b>#75:</b> documenting, commemorating and protecting school cemeteries and human remains. <b>Moved to “Own” section for Implementation</b>	CAUAC recommends no further action required by The City Corporate Records (Archives). Calgary Parks (Cemeteries) were engaged and have confirmed this work is completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research was conducted into the one residential school and one known gravesite in Calgary, St. Dunstan’s in Ogden. Both have been documented.</li> </ul>
<b>#77:</b> collecting and sending archival records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. <b>Moved to “Own” section for Implementation</b>	CAUAC recommends no further action required by The City as Corporate Records. Calgary Parks were engaged and have confirmed this work has already been completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records have been obtained and are being sent to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.</li> </ul>

B. <b>OWN:</b> Calls to Action requiring City business units and departments to lead the implementation process and deliverables, through a multi-year, multi-pronged approach. There are five streams containing 18 Calls to Action in this section.		
<i>Calls To Action</i>	<i>CAUAC's Recommendation</i>	<i>Rationale and Alignments</i>
<b>STREAM A: Public Awareness and Training</b>  <b>#57:</b> awareness training to public sector staff (addressed in the FCM section above).  <b>#62.i:</b> developing curriculum for school children.  <b>#69.iii:</b> public awareness training in libraries, museums and archives.  <b>#93:</b> new immigrant information kits.	Human Resources (HR) review the content in #57 to provide education to City of Calgary staff on the history of Aboriginal people. HR will further scope out a potential education framework and resources required for implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City has an opportunity to provide staff with education on the history of Aboriginal people, the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, as well as Indigenous law and Aboriginal/ Crown relations, and skills for intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.</li> </ul>
	Calgary Neighbourhoods to collect and share information on Treaties and Treaty 7 so a greater understanding of history is available for students in the City Hall School on Truth and Reconciliation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City has an opportunity through its partnership with Calgary Board of Education (CBE) to educate children, through Campus Calgary City Hall School, creating in-house learning opportunities that demonstrate leadership on Indigenous issues.</li> </ul>
	The Calgary Public Library's mission to inspire life stories, and through its work with community partners including the Heritage Triangle, to coordinate and collaborate on exhibits and programming about the true history and legacy of Indian residential schools, in and surrounding Calgary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Libraries and museums are among the most highly utilized and trusted public 'gathering spaces' in the city, therefore their reach is substantial.</li> <li>A two-pronged approach includes (a) training City staff internally and (b) creating outward- facing public awareness and learning opportunities to increase understanding.</li> </ul>
	Calgary Neighbourhoods to develop TRC handout for new immigrants, and distribute it to immigrant-serving agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This action aligns to The City of Calgary's <u>Welcoming Community Policy</u></li> </ul>

<p><b>STREAM B: Cultural Healing &amp; Commemoration</b></p> <p><b>#21:</b> fund new healing centres.</p> <p><b>#22:</b> recognize value of healing practices.</p> <p><b>#48.ii:</b> self-determination in spiritual matters (practice, develop, teach and hold ceremony).</p> <p><b>#79.i,iii:</b> school site commemoration and framework.</p> <p><b>#82:</b> monument.</p> <p><b>#83:</b> collaborative art that contributes to reconciliation.</p>	<p>CAUAC recommends that City of Calgary business units work collaboratively to establish opportunities for Indigenous ceremonial, cultural, commemorative activities. Additionally, City business units seek ways to undertake the protection, and commemoration of significant Indigenous archeology sites, and to review future management, mitigation, and monitoring of sites that hold particular cultural and spiritual meaning for the First Nations people of the traditional area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The city of Calgary was built on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people, and the Treaty 7 people. A 9,400 year-old archaeology site in Calgary is identified as Blackfoot, and is one of the oldest sites in southern Alberta.</li> <li>• These Calls to Action align with the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CAUAC's 10 Year Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indigenous Policy Framework (IPF), due in 2017 April</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Fair Calgary Policy</li> <li>○ Triple Bottom Line Policy</li> <li>○ Cultural Landscape Policy</li> <li>○ Calgary Heritage Strategy and Policy</li> <li>○ Council-directed Native Archeological Site Inventory</li> <li>○ Cultural Policy</li> <li>○ Cultural Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>STREAM C: Leadership-to-Leadership Relations</b></p> <p><b>#45.iii:</b> [Proclamation] reaffirm and renew Treaty relationships and maintain them for the future.</p>	<p>CAUAC to work further with Council on creating the conditions for mutual respect and sustained collaboration on matters impacting Treaty relations and Indigenous peoples living in Calgary and area.</p> <p>CAUAC to work with Council to develop an Indigenous Declaration identified in its 2014 Strategic Plan and report back in 2017, alongside the Indigenous Policy Framework.</p> <p>City Clerk's Office to display a Treaty 7 flag at the Municipal Complex as they did at the Mayor's Breakfast to honor Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Call to Action aligns with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CAUAC's 10 year Strategic Plan</li> <li>○ The City's <u>Flag Policy</u></li> </ul> </li> <li>• While the Year of Reconciliation occurred in 2014-15, maintaining a commitment to building leadership-to-leadership relationships with Treaty 7 First Nations is an ongoing process.</li> <li>• CAUAC's 10-Year Strategic Plan indicates "that The City of Calgary develops a Declaration of Commitment that recognizes the long and vital role of Indigenous peoples in Calgary's history."</li> <li>• Flags signal political recognition, and Treaty 7 needs to be included in this display.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STREAM D: Cemeteries &amp; Records</b></p> <p><b>#75:</b> school cemeteries.</p> <p><b>#77:</b> records.</p>	<p>If further site are identified within city limits these be addressed accordingly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research was conducted to guide how best to appropriately address the White Goose Flying burial site.</li> </ul>

<p><b>STREAM E: Athletic Development and Heritage</b></p> <p><b>#87:</b> athletics history.</p> <p><b>#88:</b> athletic development.</p> <p><b>#89:</b> policies to promote physical activity.</p> <p><b>#90:</b> stable funding, programs for coaches, anti-racism awareness.</p> <p><b>#91:</b> Indigenous participation in international gaming bids.</p>	<p>Calgary Recreation to explore internally and with partners, the implications of incorporating Indigenous content into the design and delivery of recreation and sports programs, services and facilities, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) historic contribution of Indigenous athletes in and around Calgary, and</li> <li>(2) examining internal practices that could present barriers to participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This action aligns with <a href="#">Calgary Civic Sport Policy</a></li> <li>• Sports organizations have something to celebrate in the history of prominent Indigenous athletes in Calgary and surrounding area.</li> <li>• The City's current review of its Sport Policy provides a timely opportunity to respond to the sport-related Calls-to-Action.</li> <li>• Collaboration with other sports organizations is key in telling the story of Indigenous athletic contributions.</li> </ul>
	<p>Calgary Recreation (within The City's roles and obligations) to explore with Calgary Sport Tourism Authority ways to enhance inclusion with bidding and hosting national/ international amateur sporting games and events.</p>	
	<p>Calgary Recreation to explore with partners, barriers to long-term Indigenous athlete development and growth, particularly pertaining to The City's role in the recreational and introductory stages of long term athlete development.</p>	
	<p>Calgary Recreation to explore with partners, the implications of enhancing policies, programs and initiatives to ensure inclusion of Indigenous peoples including, but not limited to, establishing anti-racism awareness and training programs.</p>	

**C. PARTNER: CAUAC has identified 12** Calls to Action requiring collaborative efforts among City departments and other organizations, to take action on a number of initiatives, and share implementation. For an expanded presentation and discussion on these Calls to Action and their implications for City business, please see the full [White Goose Flying Report](#) to be distributed to members of Council.

**D. ENCOURAGE: CAUAC has identified 13** Calls to Action where City Council could call for leadership from other levels of government, affiliates and the private sector, on issues that directly or indirectly affect quality of life for Indigenous citizens living in cities, and that have a role to play in reconciliation. For an expanded presentation and discussion on these Calls to Action and their implications for City business, please see the full [White Goose Flying Report](#) to be distributed to members of Council.

## Appendix 1: Full Wording of Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Summary Report, Recommended for City of Calgary Advancement

21: We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.

22: We call upon those who can affect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.

45. We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

iii. Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.

48. We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

ii. Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practise, develop and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

57: We call upon federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.

62: We call upon the federal, provincial and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators to:

i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.

69: We call upon Library and Archives Canada to:

iii. Commit more resources to its public education materials and programming on residential schools.

75: We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

77: We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the NCTR.

79: We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal organizations, and the arts community, to develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration.

ii. Revising the policies, criteria and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history.

iii. Developing and implementing a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history.

82: We call upon provincial and federal governments, in collaboration with survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publically accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.

83: We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.

87: We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletics in history.

88. We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

89. We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.

90. We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:

i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.

91. We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.

93: We call upon the federal government [local government], in collaboration with the national Aboriginal organizations, to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizen test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.