

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 6/14/2021 4:27:45 PM
Subject: [Memo - National Indigenous Peoples Day - June 21](#)
Attachments: NIPD_Memo to Council _RTS.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Monday, June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day, one of 16 official celebrations and observances marked by City Council each year. This day is an opportunity for us to recognize the rich, diverse cultures of Indigenous Peoples, and the unique heritage, traditions, and knowledge of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples. June is also National Indigenous History Month in Canada as recognized by the Government of Canada. This year's National Indigenous History Month is dedicated to the missing children, the families left behind and the survivors of residential schools.

To mark National Indigenous Peoples Day, City departments, Carnegie Community Centre and UBC Learning Exchange are collaborating to host a virtual event on June 21 from NOON-2 PM. More information on this event and other NIPD activities are provided in the attached memo. To view the event online, click on the following link and follow the login instructions – [National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration 2021](#).

City Council is invited to provide a pre-recorded video message at the start of the virtual event. Using your phone, Councillors are asked to record a video of themselves with a brief personal message to welcome all who are attending the event online and in person. We recommend the short greeting be one of hope, encouragement, and recognition of the contributions and resilience of Indigenous people and culture through this time of grief and mourning.

A special t-shirt will be couriered to your home on the afternoon of June 15 or 16 for you to wear during your video recording. Information about the significance of the t-shirt is in the attached memo.

Kindly provide your brief video recording to ari.bhullar@vancouver.ca by **10 AM on Thursday, June 17**. For the best quality and to create a fitting video for this event, the videographer asks that Councillors:

- Wear the red t-shirt specifically designed for this event - you will receive it by courier on June 15 or 16.
- Use an uncluttered background that is not brighter than the Councillor in view
- Ensure the lens is focused
- Keep your video message to 10 seconds. Videos that are longer may be edited down for timing purposes.
- **Record message in landscape orientation**

Please contact Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk, at Katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca or 604.873.7998 with questions.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Lesley Matthews, Chief, External Relations and Protocol

FROM: Katrina Leckovic
City Clerk

SUBJECT: National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21

RTS #: N/A

PURPOSE

This memo provides an overview of the City's plans to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2021.

BACKGROUND

On June 21, 1996, National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD) was declared by the Governor General of Canada as a day to celebrate the rich, diverse cultures of Indigenous Peoples and the unique heritage, traditions, and knowledge of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

In 2006, City Council approved NIPD as an official annual City celebration as per Council report RTS# 6438 entitled *Annual Event Guidelines – Honours/Awards and National/International*.

In 2009, the House of Commons declared the month of June as National Indigenous History Month in Canada. This year, National Indigenous History Month has been officially dedicated to the missing children, the families left behind and the survivors of residential schools. The City does not include National Indigenous History Month on its list of official celebrations and observances.

Since 2006, City Council has marked NIPD on June 21 in different ways, including hosting Indigenous leaders to speak in Council, hosting in-person events such as the naming of the north plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery and the plaza at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in 2018, co-hosting events with Indigenous organizations such as West Coast Family Night at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre in 2016, as well as supporting events hosted by the three Nations with Mayor and Councillors attending as guests to read the NIPD Proclamation.

In addition, Carnegie Community Centre hosts an event annually on June 21 to celebrate Indigenous culture and the Downtown Eastside for local residents and Indigenous people across the city. In 2020, Carnegie Community Centre co-hosted a celebration with the UBC Learning Exchange. The event was hosted online due to COVID-19 and included activities such as storytelling and performances, 500 free Indigenous take-away meals for the community, as well as Indigenous arts and craft kits for kids to take home.

DISCUSSION

For NIPD 2021, External Relations and Protocol, Communications, Intergovernmental Relations, Arts Cultural and Community Services, Carnegie Community Centre and UBC Learning Exchange are collaborating and coordinating resources to support a virtual NIPD event on Monday, June 21 from NOON – 2 PM. The details are as follows:

- The online event will begin with a livestream of dancers on the front steps of Carnegie Centre, followed by a traditional welcome by Chief Bill Williams of Musqueam, a video greeting by Mayor and Council and a welcome by the Chair of the Carnegie Centre's Urban Indigenous Committee.
- After the official welcomes, the event will feature a variety of live and recorded performances, including the Carnegie's own lexwst'i:lem drum group, the Children of Takaya dancers and much more.
- The event can be viewed online from NOON - 2pm by clicking on the following link and following the login instructions – [National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration 2021](#).
- **An e-mail will be sent to Council with instructions for the Mayor and Council video message.** Members of Council will receive a t-shirt on June 15 or 16, by courier, to wear for the video recorded message. **Please wear the t-shirt for your recorded message.**
- The virtual event will be announced in a news release by the City and promoted on social media through the City's, Carnegie Centre's and UBC Learning Exchange's social channels. The news release will also mention other planned activities (below), and list of resources from the City, Vancouver Public Library, and other sources that residents can use to learn more about Indigenous communities. This information will also be shared with City staff.
- On June 21, Carnegie will serve 500 Indigenous take-away meals to the community, and distribute 500 learning kits, which will include colouring sheets, Urban Indigenous fun fact sheets, language information and common phrases in the Halkomelem language, as well as books by Indigenous authors.
- 500 t-shirts will also be distributed to "blanket" the community in red. The t-shirt will

feature a design specifically created for National Indigenous Peoples Day 2021 by Skundaal, a local Indigenous artist.

Other activities being planned, include:

- Illumination of City Hall and Burrard Bridge on National Indigenous Peoples Day
 - **Monday, June 21 – 9 pm – Midnight** the Burrard Street Bridge and Vancouver City Hall will be illuminated in orange in memory of the children who died, children still missing, the families left behind and the survivors of residential schools, and in acknowledgement of the collective grief felt by Indigenous people and our entire community since the devastating news from Kamloops, BC.

- Indigenous Flag Display on Flag Island at 12th and Cambie
 - **Friday, June 18 to Wednesday, June 30** the following Indigenous flags will fly on the 12th and Cambie flag island at City Hall:
 - Musqueam Indian Band Flag – permission pending
 - Squamish Nation Flag – permission pending
 - Tsleil-Waututh Nation Flag
 - City of Vancouver Flag
 - Musqueam Indian Band Two Spirit Flag – permission pending
 - Squamish Nation Pride Flag – permission pending
 - Tsleil-Waututh Nation Rainbow Flag
 - Inclusive Pride Flag (Progress Flag)
 - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Flag
 - Every Child Matters Flag
 - Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society Flag
 - Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council Flag
 - Metis Nation Flag
 - Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Society Flag
 - No More Stolen Sisters Flag – designed by Skundaal*
 - National Indigenous Peoples Day Flag – designed by Skundaal

An Appendix at the end of this memo includes pictures of the flags. Two flags have been designed specifically for the City for NIPD 2021 including a National Indigenous Peoples Flag and the No More Stolen Sisters Flag. Both have been designed by local artist Skundaal. The design for the National Indigenous Peoples Day Flag will also be featured on the t-shirts given out to the community and members of Council.

** Skundaal is a Haida artist and master carver who also goes by Bernie Williams (Gul-Giit-Jaad; Golden Spruce Woman). She is of St'langng Jaanas/Laanas clan in Haida Gwaii. As a long time Downtown Eastside resident she is a passionate advocate against the discrimination, abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and exploitation against Aboriginal and 2SLGBTQ+ women and girls. Skundaal designed the No More Stolen Sisters and National Indigenous Peoples Flag specifically for the City to use during the month of June and on June 21 to promote National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day.*

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the City of Vancouver, Carnegie Community Centre and UBC Learning Exchange are partnering to host a virtual National Indigenous Peoples Day event from NOON – 2 pm on June 21. Mayor and Council are invited to wear t-shirts representing the day and event, and to wear these in a video message to be shown at the start of the event on June 21. A separate e-mail with instructions will be sent to Councillors about the video.

Other activities happening to celebrate National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples day include a special illumination of Burrard Bridge and City Hall, as well as an Indigenous flag display on the flag island at 12th and Cambie.

Please contact me with further questions on this event.

Sincerely,







Katrina Leckovic
City Clerk

Katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca | 604.873.7998

APPENDIX

Flags for top 4 poles on flag island at 12th and Cambie:

	Musqueam Indian Band Flag		Tsleil-Waututh Nation Flag
	Squamish Nation Flag		City of Vancouver Flag

Flags for lower 12 poles on flag island at 12th and Cambie:

	National Indigenous People's Day Flag - designed by Skundaal		Inclusive Pride Flag/Progress Flag
	Metis Nation Flag		Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Society Flag
	Every Child Matters Flag		Musqueam Two Spirit Flag
	Indian Residential School Survivors Society Flag		Squamish Pride Flag
	No More Stolen Sisters Flag - designed by Skundaal		Tsleil-Waututh Rainbow Flag
	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Flag		Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council Flag