

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 7/20/2022 9:38:30 AM
Subject: Upcoming News Release: MMIWG2S Response Report (July 20, 2022)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please find below a news release on the MMIWG2S Response Report: Response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice and Red Women Rising Report Recommendations.

With the passage of this item at yesterday's Council meeting, the information bulletin will be issued today. There will be corresponding social media posts pointing the public toward the report.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sn̓wəx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News Release
July 20, 2022

City responds to the National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice and Red Women Rising Report

As the City of Reconciliation, Vancouver City Council has adopted a plan and approach for citywide implementation of recommendations from the Calls for Justice (CFJ) outlined in the [Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) and the [Red Women Rising](#) (RWR) report that are within the City's jurisdiction. The City will be one of the first municipalities to implement the CFJ's Seven Principles of Change.

The City of Vancouver recognizes that colonial settler policy, such as the Indian Act and the reserve system, residential schools, the 60s Scoop, Indian hospitals, disproportionate rates of incarceration, and the apprehension of Indigenous children through the Child Protection Act, have individually and collectively had deep and far-reaching consequences for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ Peoples. The impacts of these systems and practices continue today.

While many of these systems are within provincial and federal jurisdiction and are outside the purview of

the City, the outcomes are borderless. The City recognizes its responsibility and the opportunity to implement solutions to advance reconciliation.

“I joined the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (UIPAC) to support the City with implementing Reconciliation and with public safety concerns of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples. Every single Call for Justice is an action item to support the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples; they are legal imperatives, not optional,” says Nicole Cardinal, Dakelh and Wet’suwet’en from Stellat’en First Nation, UIPAC member. “These issues are not only historical; they are happening everyday in the lives of Indigenous women. We are still grieving the discovery of Chelsea Poorman and Noelle O’Soup. There is a huge need and outcry from the community to ensure the City is implementing the recommendations and that they will have a positive affect on the lives of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples.”

“The City is incredibly grateful to the members of the Urban Indigenous People’s Advisory Committee, grassroots organizers, and Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit who shared their wisdom in support of this work, “ says Sandra Singh, General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services, City of Vancouver. “They have been advocating for government action for years, and without them this work would not have been possible. While the City still has much work to do to increase safety Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples, adopting and the recommendations in this report is a meaningful step forward in advancing this work.”

“It is unacceptable that Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and trans people experience disproportionately high rates of violence, and as a City of Reconciliation we must take action to address this,” says Kennedy Stewart, Mayor, City of Vancouver. “Today, by adopting this report we are making a meaningful commitment to increasing safety for members of these communities and attending to the harms caused by hundreds of years of settler-colonialism.”

Following the approval of the report:

- Staff will start finalizing a cross-departmental implementation plan to advance CFJ and RWR recommendations, including the development of an evaluation plan to ensure accountability;
- Staff will broaden their knowledge and understanding of MMIWG2S as part of their performance objectives; and,
- A citywide response protocol will be created to alert the public when an Indigenous woman, girl and/or 2SLGBTQQIA+ person is missing from Vancouver.

[Read the full report](#) and learn more about the City’s commitment to advance CFJ and RWR recommendations.

City of Reconciliation

Following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the City adopted [Reconciliation Framework](#). The City continues to be committed to [implementing Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), and the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People](#) in partnership with with xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), səłílwətaʔł (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Note to editors

We would like to acknowledge and give gratitude to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations on whose ancestral unceded, and traditional territories the City of Vancouver is located on. The women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples of these nations carry inherent knowledge of cultural protocols and their identities have been impacted by colonial systems.

We acknowledge those who are still missing and hold up the survivors and family members of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples.

We acknowledge and honor all of the countless grassroots women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples who came together, spoke up against the system, and made noise so that the governments and residents would wake up and start helping to create change so that Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples would receive the justice they deserve when they experience violence. We acknowledge the grassroots organizers that have worked in their spare time, unpaid, to raise awareness and gain support from the mainstream for the National Inquiry to take place. As well, we acknowledge how the grassroots organizers created ways to work in partnership with mainstream organizations and colonial governments to reduce systemic social, cultural, and economic barriers for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples.

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