

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

"Kassam, Nick" <Nick.Kassam@vancouver.ca>

"Kelley, Gil" <Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca>

"Dobrovolny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca>

"Hagiwara, Rosemary" <rosemary.hagiwara@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 10/1/2019 8:10:34 AM

**Subject:** Memo - Year of Indigenous Languages - RTS 13232

**Attachments:** ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - Year of Indigenous Languages Motion (2019-0....pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached you will find a memo update from Sandra Singh, General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services on the Council Motion from May 14, 2019 regarding 2019 being the Year of Indigenous Languages – RTS 13232. Highlights include:

- Discussion of importance of language revitalization to the addressing cultural erasure of the local First Nations;
- Recommended actions to address the Council directions from May 14, 2019;
- Funding for new initiatives not currently underway or achievable within existing 2019 resources will be put forward for Council consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh directly at [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
604.873.7627 | [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh peoples.*

---

**MEMORANDUM**

September 27, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**CC:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Nick Kassam, General Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management  
Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability  
Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager, Engineering Services  
Cheryl Nelms, Deputy General Manager, Engineering Services  
Katelyn Crabtree, Manager, Indigenous Relations, City Manager's Office  
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services

**FROM:** Sandra Singh  
General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

**SUBJECT:** Report back on Motion "Recognition and Action on the International Year of Indigenous Languages" (May 14, 2019)

---

**PURPOSE**

This Memorandum outlines a proposed program and budget in response to the May 14, 2019 Council motion directing staff to report back by Q4 2019 on the most appropriate ways to develop "concrete and sustainable measures for City programs and services to support, revitalize, and promote local Indigenous languages."

This memo is for information. A budget request to support this program is being put forward for Council consideration as part of the 2020 Budget planning process.

**BACKGROUND**

On May 14, 2019, Council approved the following recommendations arising from a motion to advancing the City's reconciliation framework and efforts:

*(Approved directions; Full motion appended to this memo)*

A. THAT, the City of Vancouver officially recognize 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages, including through a proclamation at City Hall, and an invitation to local language speakers to attend and be recognized;

FURTHER THAT this proclamation include that the City of Vancouver recognizes the revitalization and protection of Indigenous languages are required, with specific consideration to the particular circumstances of Indigenous Youth, Women and Elders.

B. THAT Council direct staff to work with xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓ wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́ lílwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to determine the City's role in resourcing the creation of educational tools to help with pronunciation and adoption of šxʷáxən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza and šxʷáənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square.

C. THAT Council direct staff to work with xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓ wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́ lílwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and other stakeholders to produce recommendations on concrete and sustainable measures for City programs and services to support, revitalize, and promote local Indigenous languages but also ensuring Indigenous partners are resourced to meaningfully and collaboratively provide input on these recommendations;

FURTHER THAT staff report back to Council on a proposed program and budget by Q4 2019 or earlier, as feasible.

### **Historical Context**

Language is an essential part of culture and identity and connection to place. It is one of the key foundations of cultural continuity and transmission of knowledge. The area now known as Vancouver is on the traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́ lílwətaʔt̓ Tsleil-Waututh, who for thousands of years moved freely throughout their territories as sovereign people, with their own languages, legal orders, governance systems, and epistemologies. The two original languages of these lands are hə́ŋdəmíhə́m and Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh. With the many ongoing legacies of colonialism, loss of language has been a serious impact upon Indigenous people, including intergenerational transmission of Indigenous ways of knowing. As the foreign colonial government imposed race-based assimilative laws onto Indigenous people, there were many prohibitions against cultural practises and ways of life. Among these were the federal potlatch ban in effect from 1885 until 1951, and the Residential school system which used punishment for Indigenous language use<sup>1</sup> – among other oppressive tools – to “kill the Indian in the child”<sup>2</sup>. Indigenous people in BC experienced severe population loss (in some cases up to 90%)<sup>3</sup> due to western diseases (such as smallpox) and other harms (such as loss of traditional practices, medicines, and foods<sup>4</sup>), and this, coupled with the outlawing of traditional forms of knowledge and culture transmission, has meant that language loss has been extensive across BC, which holds the greatest diversity of

---

<sup>1</sup> Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Various reports, <http://nctr.ca/reports.php>

<sup>2</sup> Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) (1996) *Looking forward, looking back: Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Volume 1* Ottawa, Canada: Communication Group.

<sup>3</sup> Ostroff, J. (2017), How a Smallpox Epidemic Forged Modern British Columbia, *Macleans Magazine*.

<sup>4</sup> Boateng, G. O. (2016). Book Review: Daschuk, J. (2013). *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. *The International Indigenous Policy Journal*, 7(1).

Indigenous languages in Canada. Many languages are considered endangered<sup>5</sup>, though their communities work diligently to keep them alive.

Urbanization has gone hand-in-hand with colonial policies designed to remove people from their lands and clear the way for settlers and resource extraction, under the western concept of *terra nullius*. This included the reserve system and forced removal of the First People from their lands—for example, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh ancestors were forced to leave what is now called Stanley Park, and the site of their village of sə́həʔqʷ /Sehákʷ (also known as Kitsilano Indian reserve).<sup>6</sup> Thus, the deep connections that language holds to place, governance, identity, and memory have been disrupted in the making of Vancouver and the imposition of the English language and law onto the lands and institutions. The destruction of existing Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh cultural landscapes has meant the erasure of place names and a general disregard for the rich language continuums which were in place here for thousands of years. As a result, Vancouver is part of the historical context of dispossession and loss of culture and identity, of which language is a central part.

### **Current Context**

The United Nations declared 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons” (Article 14). The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action assert that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.

As a City of Reconciliation, Vancouver has been actively working to address the many impacts of colonization. Supporting hə́nqəmiḥə́n and Skwxwú7mesh to once again be heard throughout these lands and waters is a powerful tool for reconciliation. In addition, recognizing the language rights of Urban Indigenous people in Vancouver is also important to reconciliation and redress, as part of the overall work to address the impacts of colonialism.

### **Previous and Current Related Initiatives**

#### **City of Reconciliation**

The City is committed to building relationships with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community, based on mutual respect and understanding, strengthened partnerships, and economic empowerment. Addressing the health of Indigenous languages is an important component of achieving these goals.

#### **150+ Place Naming Project Motion**

In March 2017 the *150+ Place Naming Project* that was passed by Council included these goals: (b) Re-establish Indigenous place names on sites of importance including landscape features and village sites; (c) Create Indigenous Design Guidelines to guide future place naming and built form that is sympathetic to the Indigenous context; (d) Determine the circumstances when, if ever, a street or public asset name can be replaced; (e) Establish a registry of all plaques, monuments and other commemorations

---

<sup>5</sup> First People’s Cultural Council (2018), Report on the Status of BC First Nations Languages (2018)

<sup>6</sup> Barman, Jean (2007) “Erasing Indigenous Indigeneity in Vancouver”, *BC Studies*, pg 7-20.

on public land and seek a partner to maintain the registry going forward. These goals are currently in various stages of implementation.

### **City of Reconciliation Plaza Naming Project**

One direct result of the 150+ Place Naming Project motion was the passing of the Walk for Reconciliation Commemorations motion in October 2017 identifying two prominent public plazas to be named in partnership with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh: the north plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery and the space formerly known as the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza. While the 150+ Naming Project motion called on re-establishing traditional place names, the naming committee for the Plaza project decided instead to create new names in both hə́nq̓əmiḥəm & Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh that reflect the historic, current, and future use of the spaces.

Through a lot of hard work, commitment, and generosity of the language leaders from each Nation, in June of 2018, hə́nq̓əmiḥəm & Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh names were gifted to these two places: ḥx̓w̓lənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square & ḥx̓w̓lexən Xwtl'a7shn at a ceremony on Indigenous People's Day that wove together City protocols with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh protocols. Today, there are ongoing measures to help the wider public to learn about and adopt the words. There is great interest to learn more about the cultural contexts and pronunciations.

### **Vancouver Park Board**

In May 2017, *Park Board Park Naming Recommendations* included the following:

- E. THAT any further naming processes be suspended to allow Park Board staff, working with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh staff, to update the Park Naming Process to incorporate Indigenous place names in Vancouver Parks; and
- F. THAT Park Board staff report back, by Fall 2017, on recommendations for amendments to the Park Naming Process to incorporate Indigenous place names and steps to resume the naming process

Park Board, City Manager's Office – IGR, and Cultural Services are working to collaborate on a cultural heritage committee with representatives from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh governments to coordinate the work, which should include language.

### **Vancouver Public Library**

In 2014, the VPL Board announced the name of its newest branch, selected after months of community consultation and discussion with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh representatives. The The néca?mat ct Strathcona Branch, which opened in 2017, became the first Vancouver civic building with an Indigenous name.

### **Commemorative Naming**

The City is currently reviewing and scoping potential revisions to the current commemorative naming policy, taking into account Indigenous relations and lessons learned from the plaza renaming process.

## ***Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture***

### **Direction: Reconciliation and Decolonization**

The City's new culture plan prioritizes Reconciliation and Decolonization, calling on the City to recognize & support Indigenous cultural knowledge & presence through decolonizing practices. The three goals for Reconciliation and Decolonization are:

- Centre Musqueam, Squamish, & Tsleil-Waututh Visibility & Voice on the Land (including waters) & Across the City
- Increase Investment & Leadership Opportunities for Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, & Urban Indigenous Arts & Culture
- Support Right Relations Between Non-Indigenous & Indigenous Peoples

The plan includes proposed actions for supporting hə́nqəmiḥə́m and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh; namely:

- 2.1.B: Support opportunities to identify, steward, & access places of cultural significance
  - Fund Musqueam, Squamish, & Tsleil-Waututh representatives or consultants to identify sites of cultural significance to inform urban planning, development of cultural spaces, & place naming.
- 2.1.C: Incorporate hə́nqəmiḥə́m & Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh naming, signage, & visibility across the City
  - Support the development & integration of hə́nqəmiḥə́m & Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh language naming signage, & visibility.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***Issues and Considerations***

Within local Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh cultures, receiving a name is a gift. The City of Vancouver must learn to reflect these important local protocols and world views and find ways to reciprocate the gifting of names for the two downtown plazas. As the renaming project and ongoing expertise from Indigenous people have continually affirmed, relationships need to grow, and this takes time. Regular feedback confirms that the City should not impose its own timelines and needs upon the Nations, and this language work should be mutually beneficial.

Additionally, it is important to know that there are place names and cultural information that are sensitive and not always for public sharing. The extent of place names and the ways that the languages are shared must be determined by all three Nations themselves. The City of Vancouver has responsibilities to take ownership for the harms it has been part of perpetuating, and to redress the erasure of hə́nqəmiḥə́m and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh on these lands. One important way for the City to take on this work is to support public awareness of the original languages so that the wider public and visitors can gain a better understanding of and respect for the cultural origins and identity of Vancouver as unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh lands.

(Re)naming projects led by local First Nations have been done in places like UBC and on the Sea to Sky highway, where signage helps to embed the traditional languages of those lands. These projects are significant beyond words, since language is inextricably linked with culture, and so reminding the public of the original languages of the lands works towards decolonizing our communities. As noted in a recent policy report by First People's Cultural Council: "Place names have the power to convey histories and teachings, explain environmental and spiritual

phenomena, and reflect ownership and responsibility. They tie living heritage — including traditional knowledge and language — to the land.” The report includes the recommendation to support “public commemoration and interpretation of places associated with Indigenous heritage values and events” which could include funding for:

- Development of opportunities for Indigenous people to recognize, reconnect, and actively manage their cultural heritage with the land in urban areas.
- Projects that commemorate and interpret Indigenous heritage in urban areas. This could serve as a counterpoint to colonial stories and histories that dominate heritage narratives in cities.
- Indigenous place names projects, such as public monuments, markers, signage and maps. These projects would assert and affirm continued Indigenous presence on the land and promote the use of Indigenous languages.<sup>7</sup>

### ***Aligned Senior Government Investments***

In 2018 the Province of BC committed \$50 million of new spending to help revitalize Indigenous languages, as administered by the First People’s Culture Council, a First Nations-run Crown Corporation. The federal government passed the Indigenous Languages Act in June of 2019, committing over \$300 million for the first three years. This demonstrates that there is growing recognition that Indigenous languages are in critical need of support and the responsibility lies with governments to redress the ongoing effects of cultural genocide which have resulted in so many Indigenous languages being endangered and erased from the lands where they originate.

### **PROPOSED PROGRAM IN RESPONSE TO COUNCIL DIRECTION**

In Vancouver, much of the groundwork for identifying the need to have an Indigenous language strategy and naming policy has been done, thanks to City staff and cultural leaders from the Nations. Local Indigenous language leaders have been working for many years to revitalize their languages and prevent further loss. The City of Vancouver has been more active in acknowledging the original languages of these lands since 2014 acknowledgement of unceded lands and with more recent work naming work, initiated in 2017.

The most important step is to resource self-determined community-driven processes with the local Nations to make sure the ways in which the City supports *hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓* and *Sḵw̓x̓w̓ú7mesh* is of benefit to the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh people themselves. Language is the heart of culture, and, as such, offers tremendous opportunities for dialogue, intercultural learning, trust building, etc. This work should be seen as relevant to all City departments as part of building relationships and understanding, and working towards justice as a city of reconciliation. There are concrete steps that can be done to help affirm that Vancouver is unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories with rich history, including linguistic vitality.

- A. THAT, the City of Vancouver officially recognize 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages, including through a proclamation at City Hall, and an invitation to local language speakers to attend and be recognized;***

---

<sup>7</sup> First People’s Cultural Council (2019) *Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C.*

**Action:**

November 2019: Hold an Indigenous language celebration event in City Hall at which language leaders are acknowledged and the Proclamation recognizing the International Year of Indigenous Languages is read. After the proclamation, a feast and initial dialogue to discuss ways forward can be held.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to work with *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to determine the City's role in resourcing the creation of educational tools to help with pronunciation and adoption of šxʷálexən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza and šxʷáənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square.***

**Proposed Action:**

2020 or 2021: Allocate funds for educational materials and promotion for pronunciation of šxʷálexən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza and šxʷáənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square, and finding ways to share videos and audio guides already produced and available online. Work with Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Civic Theatres and other partners, such as the VPL, Park Board, tourism groups, arts festivals, and BIAs to share these educational resources and learning opportunities in their own programming.

- C. THAT Council direct staff to work with *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and other stakeholders to produce recommendations on concrete and sustainable measures for City programs and services to support, revitalize, and promote local Indigenous languages but also ensuring Indigenous partners are resourced to meaningfully and collaboratively provide input on these recommendations;***

**Proposed Action:**

- 1) 2020-2022: Develop and implement a focused Indigenous Languages Action Plan, led by Cultural Services, to explore appropriate ways for the City within its jurisdiction to support həńqəmińəń and Skwxwú7mesh, to include:
  - Ways to incorporate həńqəmińəń and Skwxwú7mesh across the City;
  - Ways to fulfill language actions of *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture*;
  - Areas and content for həńqəmińəń and Skwxwú7mesh signage; and
  - Other ways the City can support həńqəmińəń and Skwxwú7mesh.
- 2) 2020: Civic Asset Naming Review
  - Review the City's Commemorative Naming Policy (underway) and other policies and procedures (to be identified) that result in names of City infrastructure or assets and suggest revisions to incorporate həńqəmińəń and Skwxwú7mesh naming as required.
  - Review the composition of the Civic Asset Naming committee and build linkages between the committee and the həńqəmińəń and Skwxwú7mesh languages work.



- 3) 2020-2021: Work with City-wide Plan team to explore possibilities for supporting Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh to create their own self-determined Cultural Heritage maps identifying their cultural landscapes, including names, areas of priority, sensitivity, etc. as they want this to be shared and understood. This work would form the important foundation of the City-wide plan, affirming Vancouver's location on unceded and traditional lands.
- 4) Ongoing: Continue to embed procurement and resourcing which affirms the importance of cultural competency and demonstrated awareness and connections with the local Nations.

## Required Resources

The implementation of signage for the two plazas – šxwʷlənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square and šxwʷlən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza – was part of the scope of work for the implementation of the two names. \$490,000 in required funding is being allocated through the 2019-2022 capital plan to complete the signage component of this naming initiative.

The additional resources required to undertake the new program described in this memo will be put forward for Council consideration as part of the 2020 budget process. Work could be staged over multiple years, subject to budget approvals.

2019		Source
Proclamation event at City Hall	\$3,000	ACCS 2019
Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh Language advisors	\$9,000 for remainder of year (\$3,000 per Nation)	ACCS 2019 Internal reallocation
2020-2022		
Educational materials for šxwʷlən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza and šxwʷlənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square	\$70,000	New request for 2020/2021
Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh Language advisors for Action Plan	\$60,000 (\$30,000/year for 2 years)	New request for 2020/2021
Indigenous consultant(s) to lead Indigenous Languages Action Plan	\$100,000 (\$50,000/year for 2 years)	New request for 2020/2021
Project funds to pilot Action Plan recommendations	\$70,000	New request for 2020/2021
Self-determined Cultural Heritage maps identifying Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh cultural landscapes (Funding for the Nations to undertake this work)	\$150,000	Recommended through Culture Shift
Civic Asset Naming Review	Existing staffing	Existing staffing; can begin in 2020
<b>Total new resources requested for 2020</b> <i>Excluding Culture Shift request</i>	<b>\$300,000</b>	
<b>Total new resources requested for 2020</b> <i>Including Culture Shift request</i>	<b>\$450,000</b>	

## FINAL REMARKS

The traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples make Vancouver unlike any city in the world. The names, cultures, meanings, and sounds of these lands are embedded in the original languages of hə́nqəmiṇə́h and Skwxwú7mesh and the distinct cultures of each Nation.

Language has the power to acknowledge the cultural erasure of the past and support the local Nations' self-determination in the present. The staff recommendations in this memo support meaningful steps in the ongoing journey towards restoring an Indigenous future led by Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, in relationship with the City of Vancouver.

\*\*\*\*\*

If there are any further questions or Councillors need for additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca).



Sandra Singh  
General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services  
604.871.6858 | [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)

SS/sjp

## APPENDIX

Council motion from May 14, 2019

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20190514/documents/motionb8.pdf>

### **8. Recognition and Action on the International Year of Indigenous Languages**

Submitted by: Councillor Boyle

WHEREAS

1. The United Nations has declared 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages;
2. Article 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons”;
3. Article 31 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions”;
4. Vancouver is a City of Reconciliation, with a commitment that: *We will form a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community*;
5. The Truth and Reconciliation Report in 2015 acknowledged that residential schools and colonization were primarily responsible for interrupting the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous languages, which has led to approximately only 3.0% of First Nations people from BC being reported as fluent speakers in 2018’s First People’s Cultural Council Report on the Status of BC First Nations Languages;
6. The colonization of what is now called the City of Vancouver displaced and marginalized xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) communities and contributed to the decline of their languages;
7. The xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations have growing numbers of language learners and speakers due to the determination of their own community’s efforts and growing support from Federal and Provincial governments;
8. Urban Indigenous populations in Vancouver continue to seek ways to connect to their cultural identity and actively participate in the revitalization of their own Indigenous languages in the city as well;
9. The City of Vancouver’s reconciliation work so far has included a special “150+ Place Naming Project”, and a subsequent “City Asset Renaming Policy” to repatriate Indigenous place names or support the creation of new names, and increase visible Indigenous markers throughout the city;

10. In June, 2018 the City of Vancouver, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) announced two new names for prominent public spaces downtown Vancouver: šxʷáxən Xwtl'a7shn (formerly known as the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza) and šxʷáənəq Xwtl'e7én̓ Square (formerly the Vancouver Art Gallery north plaza).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A. THAT, the City of Vancouver officially recognize 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages, including through a proclamation at City Hall, and an invitation to local language speakers to attend and be recognized;

FURTHER THAT this proclamation include that the City of Vancouver recognizes the revitalization and protection of Indigenous languages are required, with specific consideration to the particular circumstances of Indigenous Youth, Women and Elders.

B. THAT Council direct staff to work with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to determine the City's role in resourcing the creation of educational tools to help with pronunciation and adoption of šxʷáxən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza and šxʷáənəq Xwtl'e7én̓ Square.

C. THAT Council direct staff to work with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and other stakeholders to produce recommendations on concrete and sustainable measures for City programs and services to support, revitalize, and promote local Indigenous languages but also ensuring Indigenous partners are resourced to meaningfully and collaboratively provide input on these recommendations;

FURTHER THAT staff report back to Council on a proposed program and budget by Q4 2019 or earlier, as feasible.

\* \* \* \* \*