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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 10/25/2022 11:23:39 AM
Subject: Pending news release: UNDRIP strategy for Vancouver (October 25, 2022)

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Subject to Council's final decision on the UNDRIP strategy, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release. Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

The release speaks to the 79 calls to action as a first for a municipality in Canada, making Vancouver a national and word leader in leader in implementing a clear strategy towards UNDRIP and reconciliation.

Acknowledging the important work that that Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Vancouver have done, the task force celebrated the release of their strategy and calls to action at a cultural ceremony at the Museum of Vancouver on October 19. The event and news release<<https://www.squamish.net/undrip-report/>> resulted in strong coverage by media, both locally and nationally.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱məθká·y̱əm (Musqueam), Sgwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
Information bulletin
October 25, 2022

Council approves groundbreaking UNDRIP strategy for Vancouver
Calls to action are the first of their kind for a municipality in Canada

Today, Council passed the City of Vancouver's United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Strategy that makes Vancouver a national and world leader in implementing a clear strategy towards UNDRIP and reconciliation.

In March 2021, City Council unanimously adopted a motion to create a UNDRIP Task Force. The task force, in partnership with Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, developed the strategy and 79 calls to action outlined in the report.

Today, UNDRIP is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and is a framework for reconciliation to uphold and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights and their enjoyment of those rights.

As part of the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Strategy, the task force identified specific calls to action under the four themes of the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act):

1. Social, cultural, and economic well-being
2. Ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination
3. Self-determination and inherent right of self-government
4. Rights and title of Indigenous People

For the full strategy, please visit: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20221025/documents/p1.pdf>

Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation have generously come together to help guide the City in this important work. The establishment of the intergovernmental UNDRIP Task Force created a pathway to support Vancouver's commitment to improved relationships with the Nations, in recognition of their rights as title holders of these lands.

Acknowledging the important work that that Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Vancouver have done, the task force celebrated the release of their strategy and calls to action at a cultural ceremony at the Museum of Vancouver on October 19.

Next Steps:

In consultation with the Nations and urban Indigenous populations, City staff will determine what is needed to implement each call to action and report back to Council with an action plan on how to implement findings, and a new inter-governmental committee will work to move forward the strategy's recommendations.

Quotes

Squamish Nation Chairperson & Task Force Co-Chair Khelsilem:

"The task force has started this important work and made significant headway. While we made progress, much more work needs to be done. The pathway we share this fall will not just have a marginal effect on Indigenous Peoples but will allow our people to have the full enjoyment of the rights articulated in UNDRIP."

City of Vancouver Councillor & Task Force Co-Chair Christine Boyle:

"The City of Vancouver and other local governments have a lot learning and work ahead, towards Reconciliation and to advance Indigenous rights. I am grateful for the leadership of Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh. Vancouver's UNDRIP Task Force is taking important steps through collaborative intergovernmental relationships that will make life in Vancouver better for Indigenous people and for all of us."

Tsleil-Waututh Chief Jen Thomas:

"I am thrilled by Council's endorsement of the UNDRIP Task Force's groundbreaking report. These 79 calls to action will guide the City of Vancouver to implement its UNDRIP strategy, ensuring that issues of well-being, racism, self-determination, and the rights and title of Indigenous peoples are addressed over time. The UNDRIP strategy is representative of the transformative work that is possible with government-to-government

relationships between the City of Vancouver and Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and I hope this good work continues. A decision by City Council to adopt this report will have a ripple effect on other jurisdictions across Metro Vancouver and the country.”

Musqueam Indian Band Chief Wayne Sparrow:

“With the presentation of this final report, Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and the City of Vancouver are making history and demonstrating what can happen when we come together as truly collaborative partners. It won’t be easy to implement these calls to action, but it is necessary work that will be worth it. We encourage all local governments to take note of the work we are doing here in Vancouver and consider how they can work towards implementing UNDRIP in a meaningful way in their own communities.”

For more information, please contact:

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- * communications@twnation.ca<<mailto:communications@twnation.ca>>
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About the UNDRIP Task Force

The mandate of the UNDRIP Task Force is to collaboratively develop a report to advise Vancouver City Council on the implementation of UNDRIP in Vancouver. The task force is led by an intergovernmental steering committee composed of representatives from Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and the City of Vancouver.

The UNDRIP Task Force engaged with urban Indigenous communities, and invited the knowledge and input of technical experts, academics, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous community members with unique insights and lived experiences. The Task Force has appointed Co-Chairs by consensus: Council Chairperson Khelsilem (Squamish Nation) and Councillor Boyle (City of Vancouver).

About xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band)

Musqueam have lived in the Fraser River estuary since time immemorial. We are a proud and culturally-resilient First Nation of over 1,300 members. About half of our their members live in a small portion of our territory known as Musqueam Reserve, located south of Marine Drive in Vancouver. Many of the remaining members live throughout Musqueam’s territory, including Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, Delta, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, and New Westminster. Our lands and waters continue to support our cultural and economic practices, while serving as a source of knowledge and memory, encoded with our teachings and laws. Learn more: [musqueam.bc.ca/our-story](http://www.musqueam.bc.ca/our-story).<<http://www.musqueam.bc.ca/our-story>>

About the Skwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)

The Squamish Nation is a unity of the Squamish Peoples with an uplifting culture, rich history, and exciting future. The Nation is an innovative Indigenous government that uses its resources to provide, guide, and protect the Squamish territory and Squamish People. The Squamish People continue to reside in the area now described as the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The largest proportion of Squamish Nation Members live in several urban reserve communities in the present-day cities of Vancouver, North and West Vancouver and the municipality of Squamish, B.C. Over 47 per cent of the more than 4,050 Squamish Nation Members live on-reserve, and membership is determined by guidelines set out in the Squamish Nation Membership Code. The Nation has never ceded or surrendered title to its lands, rights to its resources or the power to make decisions within its territory. Learn more: [squamish.net/about-our-nation](https://www.squamish.net/about-our-nation)<<https://www.squamish.net/about-our-nation>>.

About səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Tsleil-Waututh Nation is a Coast Salish Nation whose territory centres around Burrard Inlet in the greater Vancouver region. Tsleil-Waututh have a Sacred Trust, a responsibility, to care for and restore traditional territory to its former state. Today, Tsleil-Waututh is more than 600 people strong and growing. The community draws on knowledge from ancestors to remedy past wrongs, reclaim territory and traditions, and advance into a bright future. For more information on the Tsleil-Waututh Nation visit twnation.ca<<https://twnation.ca>>.

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