

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 6/3/2025 10:52:37 AM

Subject: Upcoming news release: City reaffirms commitment to UNDRIP Action Plan and ongoing Reconciliation with local Nations (June 3, 2025)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release on June 3, 2025, regarding the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Task Force Annual Report, once the report is received by Council. Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

The media release highlights the progress made by the City over the past year in its work related to the UNDRIP Action Plan, City of Vancouver Reconciliation Framework and the MMIWG2S+ Response Report. Links to a video highlighting the collaborative journey of the City and Nations moving UNDRIP forward will also be launched via the City's social channels and available for the local Nations to share.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,

Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
June 3, 2025

City reaffirms commitment to UNDRIP Action Plan and ongoing Reconciliation with local Nations

On June 3, the City of Vancouver reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Action Plan.

This historic plan was created together with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). The Action Plan was first approved in June 2024 and outlines the City's responsibilities in upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The five-year plan includes 88 deliverables across 18 Action Groups. These focus areas range from housing and cultural visibility to environmental justice, redress, and institutional change—all with the goal of embedding Indigenous rights and leadership into the City's policies and services.

Laying the groundwork through relationships

In the first six months of implementation, all 18 Action Groups have been established, bringing together operational and technical staff from the City and the three local Nations, and marking the most comprehensive and reciprocal collaboration in the City's history.

This early stage of work has focused on building relationships, aligning approaches, and developing detailed Action Charters to guide long-term work. A five-stage progress framework has been introduced to help track where each group is on its journey, from early planning to active delivery.

Highlights from the first six months include:

- Piloting ways to fast-track Nation-led housing projects, including ʔəyálməxʷ/lyálməxw/Jericho Lands and x̣ḷu780̣ẉs/Xaẉs/The New Village (Heather Lands)
- Aligning long-range City strategies with plans developed by Nation partners, such as the Burrard Inlet Action Plan
- Completing work to scope a new historical atlas, reflecting on local Nations' histories
- Co-creating definitions and processes for updated procurement policies
- Launching an internal dashboard to report on progress

Guided by shared priorities

The UNDRIP Task Force, which oversees the plan, is made up of elected leadership from the three local Nations and Vancouver City Council. It is guided by three core priorities:

- Supporting the implementation of the UNDRIP Action Plan
- Engaging with urban Indigenous communities in a meaningful way
- Building sustainable, long-term partnerships between governments.

As the City marks one year since adopting the UNDRIP Action Plan and over a decade as a City of Reconciliation, it also acknowledges the enduring impacts of colonization felt by Indigenous Peoples. Reconciliation is not a checklist – it is a living, ongoing process of repairing relationships, recognizing rights and restoring justice.

Advancing reconciliation year-round

In the spirit of continued transparency and dialogue, the City and its partners will share important updates this month:

- The celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 event at Carnegie Community Centre
- A progress update on the City's response to the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people
- An update on the Reconciliation Framework for activities outside the scope of the UNDRIP Task Force

To learn more about the City's UNDRIP Action Plan and Reconciliation commitments, visit: vancouver.ca/undrip.

Quotes

Mayor Ken Sim:

"The UNDRIP Action Plan is a landmark commitment that reflects our shared responsibility to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples together with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh, we are building a new foundation for how governments can work together based on respect and partnership. This work is transforming how the City makes decisions and delivers services, and we remain committed to reconciliation that is meaningful, ongoing, and grounded in action."

Chief Wayne Sparrow, x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band):

"Our administrative staff and appointed council members remain fully committed to the deliverables outlined in our action plan. We are encouraged by the progress to date - UNDRIP implementation is underway. It's

inspiring to be part of this historic journey."

Sxwixwtn Wilson Williams, Spokesperson and Council Member, Skwx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation):

"The City of Vancouver's commitment to the UNDRIP Action Plan creates a future grounded in respect, equity, and partnership with local First Nations, and ensures our voices, cultures and teachings are leading the way in shaping our collective path forward."

Councillors Charlene Aleck ts'simtelot and Dennis Thomas Whonoak, səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation):

"In the year since our UNDRIP Action Plan was approved, we've taken tremendous steps forward in this transformational initiative. Our government-to-government partnership has been nourished with productive discussions and planning; our Action Groups are tackling numerous issues of concern for our Nations - wellbeing, housing, economic revitalization, cultural access, rights and title, and much more. We're paddling together in the same canoe, and we wish to bring everyone along on this journey since UNDRIP impacts us all."

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