From: "van Dyk, Donny"
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 6/3/2026 8:32:28 AM
Subject: EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 AM: Upcoming News Release and Council Package: UNDRIP Task Force Annual Report
Attachments: CEC-IR-Council Prep Package - UNDRIP TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT.pd f

Dear Mayor & Council,

In preparation for the City's 2025–2026 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Task Force Annual Report going to Council on June 3, 2026, staff have prepared a briefing package (attached pdf) with the City's key messages, key facts and relevant Q&As that may be helpful to you in future media interviews or conversations with interest holders and constituents. Council is receiving both to ensure they receive the same information being shared with the Host Nations today.

The City will be issuing the Media Release below following Council's consideration of the report. Please keep this embargoed until once the news release has been sent from the City's media account. We expect this to happen today at 10:00 am .

Staff will provide a follow up note if context or messaging requires updates.

If you have any questions about the foregoing and attached, please reach out to Chris at Chris.Freek@vancouver.ca.

If you receive any media requests, please direct them to media@vancouver.ca.

Thanks,

Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver

CITY OF VANCOUVER

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

City of Vancouver
News release
June 3, 2026

City releases UNDRIP Annual Report highlighting progress and ongoing responsibilities

Today, the City of Vancouver released its 2025–2026 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Task Force Annual Report, providing an update on how the City is delivering its commitments and where more work is needed.

The annual report affirms that implementing UNDRIP is an ongoing responsibility — one that strengthens relationships and improves outcomes citywide — carried out in partnership with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) and urban Indigenous communities. It focuses on transparency, accountability and learning as the City continues to advance Reconciliation.

The report highlights that over this second year of work:

- The City has made progress on its UNDRIP commitments, while recognizing there is still more work to do.
- Indigenous rights are being built into how the City makes decisions, develops policy and delivers services across departments.
- The City's Reconciliation efforts are grounded in long-term relationships and shared responsibility across the organization.
- Implementing UNDRIP is shaping everyday City work and helping guide decisions at all levels.

Vancouver's Reconciliation efforts are grounded in sustained care, effort and partnership.To learn more about the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Task Force, strategy and action plan, visit: vancouver.ca/undrip

QUOTES

Mayor Ken Sim, Vancouver

"Reconciliation is not a destination; it's an ongoing responsibility. This Annual Report shows how implementing UNDRIP is changing how the City works, from the way we develop policy to how we deliver services across the organization. We're committed to continuing this work in close partnership with Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and urban Indigenous communities, grounded in accountability, learning and respect."

Councillor Kim A. Guerin, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band)

"Two years into the action plan, all four of our governments continue to advance this important UNDRIP work in a good way. Musqueam is pleased with the progress, and we remain committed to this table."

Councillor Syexwaliya, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)

"In this second annual UNDRIP Report, we see how far we have all come on this journey towards true and meaningful reconciliation. This report demonstrates what can be done when we work together. I am hopeful that those who take the time to read this see the potential that true collaboration can bring - real change that advances the economic and social wellbeing of all our communities."

Chief Justin George, səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

“The release of our second UNDRIP Annual Report marks a significant milestone in the collaborative and enduring engagement between our Host Nations and the City of Vancouver. By advancing the 88 deliverables within our five-year Action Plan, the City is taking concrete steps toward dismantling systemic racism and upholding the self-determination of all Indigenous peoples who call this region home. I raise my hands in deep gratitude to the UNDRIP Task Force for their dedicated stewardship of this important journey toward true reconciliation.”

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Media contact:
City of Vancouver
media@vancouver.ca

Issue in brief
The 2025–2026 UNDRIP Annual Report provides an update on progress the City of Vancouver has made toward implementing the 2024–2028 UNDRIP Strategy and Action Plan. It supports transparency, accountability and ongoing relationship-building with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw, səlilwətaɬ and urban Indigenous communities.

The 2025-2026 Annual Report affirms that implementing UNDRIP is an ongoing responsibility—one that strengthens relationships and improves outcomes citywide - carried out in partnership with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) and urban Indigenous communities. It focuses on transparency, accountability and learning as the City continues to advance Reconciliation.

City Communications approach in brief
A news release and social media posts are planned. The tone will be reflective, serious and hopeful. The approach is values-based, respectful, transparency and partnership-forward. There is an emphasis on learning and progress, not completion. Media inquiries will be addressed reactively with Lindsay Grant acting as spokesperson.

City Key messages
- The UNDRIP Annual Report shares progress on implementing the City's commitments and identifies where more work is needed.
- This work is being advanced in partnership with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) and urban Indigenous communities.
- Implementing UNDRIP is embedding Indigenous rights into how the City makes decisions, develops policy and delivers services across all areas of work.
- Advancing Reconciliation is an ongoing responsibility that strengthens relationships and improves outcomes citywide.
- Vancouver's Reconciliation efforts are grounded in our long-term commitment to working towards Reconciliation with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) and urban Indigenous communities.

Key facts

- The City has made progress on its UNDRIP commitments, while recognizing there is still more work to do.
- Indigenous rights are being built into how the City makes decisions, develops policy and delivers services across departments.
- The City's Reconciliation efforts are grounded in long-term relationships and shared responsibility across the organization.
- Implementing UNDRIP is shaping everyday City work and helping guide decisions at all levels.
- Overall deliverable progress:
    - 11/88 deliverables complete
    - 31/88 deliverables in progress
    - 4/88 deliverables in scoping
    - 25/88 deliverables sequenced later
    - 1/88 deliverable in revision
    - 1/88 deliverable in partner review
    - 10/88 deliverables paused
    - 5/88 deliverables referred to partners

Questions & Answers

Q: There has been discussion at the Provincial Level regarding amending or repealing DRIPA due to the outcome of the Gitxaala court case — is the City considering amending or rescinding the UNDRIP Strategy and Action Plan?
A: While the Provincial government has discussed potential legal liabilities as a result of the Provincial DRIPA legislation, the City's UNDRIP Task Force, Strategy, and Action Plan have been strong foundations for collaboration and partnership among the City and Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Maintaining strong partnerships are the surest foundation for continued positive relations, positive outcomes, and greater certainty for all Vancouver community members.

Q: There have been increasing concerns regarding potential impacts to private property as a result of the Cowichan Decision and the Musqueam Rights Recognition Agreement, is the City concerned that the UNDRIP Action Plan may cause unintended consequences related to private property?
A: The UNDRIP Strategy and Action Plan do not contain any goals or deliverables that are intended to impact private property ownership and private property rights in the City of Vancouver are not an item of discussion at the City's UNDRIP Task Force. The relation of private or fee simple property rights and Aboriginal Title is a matter for senior levels of government (the Crown) and First Nations.

Q: Only 11 of 88 deliverables are complete. Why is progress so slow?
A: Many of the 88 deliverables require substantial relationship-building, co-development, and foundational work before "completion" is appropriate. The report shows work is largely in Stage 3: Working Together— with 31 deliverables in progress, and additional items in scoping, revision, partner review, or sequenced later. The City sees this as ongoing work that must be done carefully and with partners, not rushed to hit a number.

Q: What do you have to say to those who suggest the City has not done enough on Reconciliation and celebrating the framework is just performative?
A: The City recognizes that Reconciliation is a continual journey with no defined end point. Vancouver was designated a City of Reconciliation when the Reconciliation Framework was adopted by Council on July 8, 2014. The City's Reconciliation efforts are grounded in our long-term commitment to working with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) and urban Indigenous communities in advancing right relations and respect for Indigenous priorities. Our true measure of progress and success will always be the positive impacts experienced by Nation Members, urban Indigenous community members, and the diverse Vancouver residents who call this place home.

Q: What concrete changes are happening because of UNDRIP implementation?
A: The report shows concrete work underway to embed Indigenous rights into City systems. Examples include co-developing procurement policy changes, piloting an Urban Indigenous Engagement Framework across real City projects, and developing training pathways (including a City of Reconciliation 101 module) in collaboration with Nation partners.

Q: What's been paused, and why?
A: The report notes 10 deliverables paused overall, and specifically that the Major Events action group work was paused to redirect staff capacity toward FIFA World

Cup work. The intention is that partnership work connected to FIFA will provide lessons that inform major-events deliverables after the games.

Q: How are you measuring outcomes and holding yourselves accountable?
A: The report describes an intergovernmental data source and dashboard used by all four partners, ongoing refinement of the reporting process and next steps to jointly develop and validate progress indicators. The report's contents were jointly reviewed by partners at staff, leadership, and elected levels.

Q: Some advocates say that the City's distinction-based approach to the Urban Indigenous Engagement Framework causes harm and perpetuates trauma on Indigenous people, why is the City pursuing this approach?
A: A distinctions-based approach recognizes that First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples have unique rights, priorities, histories and needs. This approach has become common as all levels of government advance reconciliation efforts as it allows for tailored policies and services—such as housing and programming—to meet the specific, diverse and distinct needs of different Indigenous people.

Q: The City's former Senior Director of Indigenous Relations has suggested the City's commitment to Reconciliation is surface level, is enough is being done?
A: The City is committed to implementing the UNDRIP Action Plan and advancing reconciliation across the organization. The City wishes the former Senior Director of Indigenous Relations well in what is next and thanks her for her contributions to the City's work in Indigenous relations.

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