



September/2021

The City of Vancouver is located on the traditional unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), S̱ḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and Seḻíḻw̱iṯuḻh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations who have lived on these lands since time immemorial. Our work on anti-racism and cultural redress continues to be informed by our [commitment to Reconciliation](#).

IN THIS ISSUE

Here are highlights of our latest anti-racism actions:

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Equity Framework**
- **South Asian Redress Planner introduction**
- **Punjabi Market**

Did you miss our first newsletter? We've got you covered. [Read our June issue here.](#)

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to reflect on the harmful impacts of the Residential School System, recognize the strength and resilience of Indigenous Peoples in the face of colonial oppression and commit to advancing the Reconciliation process.

All City services and access to buildings will be closed on September 30. Staff are encouraged to prioritize learning about the legacy of the Residential School System

so the City can build new relations based on mutual understanding and respect with Indigenous Peoples.

From the 1870s to 1996, Canadian governments removed more than 150,000 Indigenous children from their homes. They forced them into 139 Residential Schools, including the St. Paul's Indian Residential School in North Vancouver. Estimates show more than 6,000 Indigenous children died in Canada's Residential Schools. Staff and leadership at the City grieve the loss of these children alongside Indigenous colleagues and with Indigenous communities across Canada.

Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc is offering a way for people to connect, support and ground into the importance of September 30 by calling upon people around the world to gather –safely– to drum and sing for the missing children of Indian Residential Schools. [Visit their website to learn more](#), including how to sing and drum the Secwepemc Honour Song.

We acknowledge there is much work still to be done toward Reconciliation. In 2014, the City adopted a Reconciliation Framework and declared ourselves a [City of Reconciliation](#). Staff have been and continue to work on enacting the 27 of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada related to municipalities. You may [view the calls to action the City is addressing here](#) and staff's [most recent Reconciliation update to City Council here](#).

Equity Framework

On July 20, City Council took a significant step forward in acknowledging and upholding the rights and dignity of all people, addressing historic and current systemic injustice and reducing harm by adopting the City's first Equity Framework.

The Equity Framework has been grounded in the fact that Vancouver is located on the traditional unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Furthermore, Vancouver is built on a history of colonialism and white supremacy, which has negatively impacted all of us, particularly Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities.

Council's approval of this Framework solidifies the foundations for significant internal work that the City needs to do and it will inform all of our Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress work moving forward.

Visit our website to [read the full council report, including the Equity Framework](#).

South Asian Communities Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress Planner

We are pleased to announce that Ari Bhullar has accepted the temporary position of South Asian Communities Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress Social Planner.

Ari comes to us from the City of Vancouver's External Relations and Protocol Office. She was the lead on the recent [Komagata Maru Remembrance Day](#), Proclamation and [Apology](#).

Ari will work with community partners and across City departments on advancing Council's direction to staff to explore and bring forward recommendations to address historical discrimination toward the South Asian community.

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਮਾਰਕੀਟ (Punjabi Market)

We've been liaising with the community on the revitalization of ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਮਾਰਕੀਟ (Punjabi Market), recognizing the impact of historical discrimination on this key cultural and economic district.

Recent revitalization work the City has supported includes:

- **Marigolds in the Market Installation**
Marigolds in the Market was a public art piece that was installed by the [Punjabi Market Regeneration Collective](#) (PMRC) in spring of this year to celebrate the vibrant history of the diverse neighborhood and community of the ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਮਾਰਕੀਟ. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about the installation and the significance of marigolds in South Asian culture.
- **Murals in the Market**
In partnership with Vancouver Mural Festival and the PMRC, local IBPOC artists created a series of murals in the Punjabi Market to help facilitate storytelling through public art. [Visit PMCRs website](#) to learn about the mural curators and see where they are located.
- **ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਮਾਰਕੀਟ self guided walking tour**
[Indian Summer Festival](#) partnered with PMRC to create a Self Guided Walking Tour. Grab your headphones and your walking shoes and [tour the Punjabi Market this weekend](#).
- **City upgrades**
The City has installed new benches, park furniture and garbage cans to increase the neighbourhood's comfort and cleanliness.

Stay up-to-date with this work by following the Punjabi Market Regeneration Collective on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

Contact

If you have questions or comments about our Anti-Racism and Culture Redress work, please share them with us at equity@vancouver.ca.

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