

## Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force

### MINUTES

Friday, July 15, 2022,  
Meeting held electronically and in Committee Room 2  
City Hall

#### PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa\* Chair  
Councillor Chinu Das\*  
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr\*

#### STAFF MEMBERS:

Corrinne Garrett\* Senior Manager, Recreation Facilities  
Christina Coolidge\* Indigenous Relations Advisor  
Blair Fryer\* Manager, Communications and Economic Development  
Rob McCullough\* Manager, Museums and Heritage Services  
Jennifer Miller\* Manager of Public Engagement  
Christopher Koth\* Manager of Programs and Community Development  
Aman Gosal\* Inspector, New Westminister Police Department  
Carilyn Cook Committee Clerk

\*Denotes electronic attendance

---

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Nakagawa opened the meeting at 1:33 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminister is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

#### 2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions took place.

3. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 **May 13, 2022**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the minutes of the May 13, 2022 Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force meeting be adopted.

**Carried.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

5. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 **National Aboriginal Veterans Day - November 8, 2022**

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, noted that last year Councillor Puchmayr took a wreath to the Vancouver ceremony for National Aboriginal Veterans Day. Councillor Puchmayr advised that he has been attending the ceremony, which is organized in conjunction with assistance from the Squamish Nation, for a number of years. He noted that the wreath he laid last year was sent on behalf of the Legion and that it would be appropriate for the Mayor to formally attend the event which is attended by a number of other dignitaries.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force recommends that Council approve that the City take a more formal approach when recognizing National Aboriginal Veterans' Day, that acknowledgements of the occasion go through the Mayor's office, and that the Mayor or their delegate attend the ceremony held in Vancouver in honour of National Aboriginal Veterans' Day.

**Carried.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor, shared that she attended the National Indigenous People's Day event at Moody Park and that it was one of the best events of this kind that she had attended. She noted that the large number of children in attendance made it a very moving and hopeful celebration, and that Mr. McCullough had done a great job facilitating the planning of the day's activities.

## 5.2 New Westminster Police Department & Indigenous Relations

Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor, advised that she is working with Blair Fryer, Manager, Communications and Economic Development, to share information regarding reconciliation work being done by the New Westminster Police Department (NYPD) such as through a blog. She shared that her week-long visit with the NYPD came from the realization that she needed experience with the Department in order to effectively help and provide support in their reconciliation process, that it was a very rewarding experience, and that the NYPD is ready to embark on the reconciliation journey. She spoke of the importance of having and sharing conversations of reconciliation that are taking place in departments outside of City Hall.

Inspector Aman Gosal, NYPD, shared that it was great to have Ms. Coolidge with the Department for the week and that a lot of positive feedback had been received from members about Ms. Coolidge's visit.

Ms. Coolidge highlighted some of the things that the NYPD can do towards reconciliation, including:

- Look into the past and at policies, possibly with help from Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, for historical records;
- Review how they interact with Indigenous people;
- Have a resident Elder or Elders on call to help diffuse situations and provide a feeling of comfort and safety to Indigenous people who may find themselves incarcerated at the Police Station.

Discussion ensued and Task Force members and staff provided the following comments:

- The histories made invisible aspect of the City's Land Acknowledgement comes to mind during this process as that is how the City and the NYPD have operated for many years – with no consideration or knowledge of the history of the land;
- It is important that this work is done by an Indigenous person such as Ms. Coolidge as a non-Indigenous person would not intuitively feel what she has; and,
- Need to determine how to sensitively ask someone if they identify as Indigenous.

Councillor Puchmayr advised of two Elders, both with experience working with incarcerated Indigenous people, who may be available to work as Elders in residence with the NYPD. Ms. Coolidge advised of the desire to start building a network of Indigenous Elders to have then on call if the NYPD need them.

### 5.3 Reconciliation Working Group

Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor, reminded Task Force members about the discussion of the creation of a Reconciliation Working Group (RWG) that took place at a previous meeting and advised that the first meeting of the RWG would take place on July 26<sup>th</sup> and then bi-weekly until September 30, 2022 after which meetings will take place on a monthly basis. RWG goals include:

- Creation of a timeline with goals to be achieved;
- Make this the year of reconciliation for the City;
- Challenge all city departments to do something in the spirit of reconciliation;
- Plan a function for the week of September 26<sup>th</sup> in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30<sup>th</sup> that the Mayor and Council could attend;
- Create space for the many nations that are tied to the City's history due to the Fraser River;
- Review DLEAR framework, the Castlemain Group report, etc., to create a solid reconciliation strategy.

In response to a question from a Task Force member, Ms. Coolidge advised that the RWG would come to the Task Force for guidance, decision making, and recommendations to Council.

Discussion ensued and Task Force members noted that the idea of each department working on reconciliation in their own way is a wonderful idea.

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, announced that the Spirit of the Children Society (SOTCS) will be planning another event again this year for Truth and Reconciliation Day and that it would be nice for the City to work with them on it but without overshadowing them.

Mr. McCullough advised that the SOTCS will also be hosting a learning powwow on August 27<sup>th</sup> in Moody Park.

Councillor Nakagawa noted that this may be her last Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force meeting due to the upcoming civic election and that it has been a pleasure and honour working with everyone.

## 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

7. **END OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 2:03 p.m.

8. **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- December 2

Certified correct,

---

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa  
CHAIR

---

Carilyn Cook  
COMMITTEE CLERK