

Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

City of Kelowna Report to Council

Calls to Action Directed at Government – Honoring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future

The Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' Calls to Action are directed to all sectors of Canadian society to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. While there are only 12 Calls to Action addressed to all levels of government, there are others which may be interpreted as applicable to the City through our direct and indirect involvement with other systems and partners. Some of these Calls to Action include actions which are not within the scope of municipal government but are within the scope of agencies with which the City has working, contractual or funding relationships, including; healthcare, law enforcement, arts and culture, sport and education. The next steps proposed in this report to Council are intended to help give staff the guidance and competencies they need to influence and collaborate with our partners as they navigate responding to the Calls to Action within their own organizations and systems.

The extent to which agencies in the noted sectors are responding to the Calls to Action within their own operations is information that would assist in building a more complete picture of how the community as a whole is taking action toward Reconciliation. Accordingly, there may be value in being more coordinated, community-wide, and reporting on our collective progress toward Reconciliation. Further, the Calls to Action highlight measures which may result in measurable benefits to Indigenous people, something which goes beyond the City's current activities related to consultation, information sharing and engagement with local First Nations. The City should be aware of, and support where possible, initiatives underway in other agencies, to help advance Reconciliation.

The majority of the activities undertaken by staff to-date align with Calls to Action #22, #43 and #57, however a summary of the calls to all government and calls to other systems and sectors with which the City has a peripheral relationship are included in Appendix A.

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Inventory of Projects and Initiatives To-Date

Projects listed in this table were not necessarily planned with the intention to respond to a Call to Action explicitly, however efforts have been made to provide Council with an indication of where there is alignment between a Call to Action and project activity. If a project does not have a Call to Action associated with it, there was still the intent for respectful and appropriate engagement of Indigenous people, and/or building awareness of the need to take action on Reconciliation.

TRC Article 3 We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.	
Project	Scope of Activity
Community Safety Plan	<p>The Community Safety Plan is being developed through a system-leaders Steering Committee, as well as engagement with Indigenous-serving community-based organizations as part of focus groups to develop key elements of the plan.</p> <p>First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is part of the project Steering Committee. FNHA has provided community-level health data, as part of the development of the Community Profile.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns to the work being undertaken are Call #3 and #43.</p>
Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy	<p>The goal of this project is to provide a coordinated, shared community framework around poverty reduction in the Central Okanagan, while building capacity within and across the region for collaborative action. Creating a culture of inclusion and reconciliation is embedded in the community engagement approach and strategy development. An engagement framework is being developed by an Indigenous-owned and operated planning firm with extensive local knowledge.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns to the work being undertaken are Call #3 and #43.</p>

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<p>TRC Article 22 We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients</p>	
Project	Scope of Activity
PEOPLE / Peer Navigators and Capacity Building Project	<p>Funded through Health Canada, the goal of the PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building Project is to develop and implement a peer navigators' program designed to support the training of people with living and lived experience of current or past substance use to participate in the delivery of services provided by local social serving organizations. The aim is to increase the participation of people with lived experience into supporting peers in their navigation of services.</p> <p>The project is designed to support Indigenous led introduction of peer-to-peer Indigenous cultural teachings to support healing and wellness as part of service delivery.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns to the work being undertaken are Call #22 and #43.</p>
Complex Needs Advocacy	<p>The Complex Needs Advocacy Paper is focused on meeting the complex housing and health support needs of our region's most housing-vulnerable. Data on the need for this housing indicates that provincially one-third of individuals with complex needs are Indigenous. The project team has worked with the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society and Okanagan Indian Band, in an effort to ensure Indigenous perspectives are incorporated into the overall systems approach.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns to the work being undertaken are Call #22 and #40.</p>

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TRC Article 23 We call upon all levels of government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field. ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities. iii. Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals. 	
Project	Scope of Activity
Community Shelter Plan and Shelter Considerations	<p>The Community Shelter Plan is under development to provide a system-wide approach for shelter services in the City. Future shelters in the City are structured as “navigation sites” to best meet the needs of the individuals they serve, to promote social equity and address inclusion barriers that prevent certain populations from accessing shelter services.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action which most closely aligns to the work being undertaken is Call #23.</p>
TRC Article 40 We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.	
Project	Scope of Activity
Complex Needs Advocacy	<p>The Complex Needs Advocacy Paper is focused on meeting the complex housing and health support needs of our region’s most housing-vulnerable. Data on the need for this housing indicates that provincially one-third of individuals with complex needs are Indigenous. The project team has worked with the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society and Okanagan Indian Band, in an effort to ensure Indigenous perspectives are incorporated into the overall systems approach.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns to the work being undertaken are Call #22 and #40.</p>
TRC Article 43 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for Reconciliation.	
Project	Scope of Activity
Journey Home Strategy	<p>The Journey Home Strategy is grounded in the foundational concepts of Innovation, Reconciliation, and Lived Experience that are woven and embedded in every aspect of the strategy and are critical to its successful implementation.</p>

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Quarterly Referral Meetings and Agreement with Westbank First Nation	In order to improve coordination of City of Kelowna referrals to Westbank First Nation relating to provincially regulated capital projects, quarterly referral meetings are scheduled, and the City of Kelowna and Westbank First Nation have entered into an agreement (until 2023) that the City currently provides payment to Westbank First Nation to compensate for the time spent in reviewing City of Kelowna project referrals.
City Park Master Plan	<p>Collaboration with the Coordinator of the Sn̓owap Heritage Museum has provided artistic and cultural direction for the design of a new destination playground in City Park based on the Four Food Chiefs of Syilx culture, as well as other celebration and gathering spaces in the park.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns to this work are Call #43 and #57.</p>
Imagine Kelowna	<p>Our community vision was established through the engagement of over 4,000 residents and is a guiding direction for the City as to the future our residents would like to see. Dialogue with local Indigenous community representatives was key to the engagement process.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns to this work are Call #43 and #57.</p>
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Programs	As a partner in the former STPCO, Westbank First Nation was engaged throughout the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and in the delivery of regional mobility and sustainable transportation programs.
Mill Creek Flood Protection Project	This multi-year flood protection project involves extensive in-stream works. The City has contracted the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) to conduct long-term flow measurement, along with in-depth fish-passage and riparian studies and reporting. This work has led to the development of mutually accepted project design criteria and a draft policy for a balanced and holistic flood protection approach.
Cultural Plan	As part of the development of the 2020-2025 Cultural Plan, a supplementary report was commissioned by the City and delivered by a Syilx consultant, titled 'Weaving Our Collective Threads: Offering a Pathway for Syilx Creativity Within the City of Kelowna.' The report provides a Syilx-framed approach to cultural development and calls on the City of Kelowna to consider principles and opportunities to take action. The Cultural Plan itself includes a Territory Acknowledgement.

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Kelowna Museums Society: Policies, Practices, Exhibitions and Programming	<p>On May 18, 2021 Kelowna Museums was the first in BC to sign a Repatriation Pledge.</p> <p>From the Museum: <i>'We have been engaged in repatriation for many years. A previous generation of staff took on the duty of care when police uncovered ancestral remains and selected the museum as the most suitable repository. Staff cared for these remains with respect and tenderness and released them to the local host nation when the time came. In recent years we have invited representatives from the local host nation, as well as Indigenous scholars, to view and document our collection. Although no funerary objects have been identified, other cultural material has been transferred and there could be more in the future. This demonstrates friendship and supports our continued efforts to do good work together.'</i></p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely aligns with the work undertaken are Call #43 and #67.</p>
Rotary Centre for the Arts: Programs featuring Indigenous artists and themes	In the past 7 months, the Rotary Centre for the Arts showcased numerous performances, art talks, and art exhibitions from local and national Indigenous people.
Kelowna Art Gallery: exhibitions featuring Indigenous artists and curators	The Kelowna Art Gallery creates opportunities for Indigenous artists and curators to exhibit their work and share Indigenous voices and perspectives with the broader community.
Cultural District Kiosk Update	Updates of 9 panels of the Cultural District Kiosks have been installed to share more accurate and contextual history of the area. Information for the panels was compiled with the assistance of Kelowna Museums and Westbank First Nation.
Public Art	Through a commission by Westbank First Nation, artist Crystal Przybille created a monument to Chief Sw'kn'cut to acknowledge the role this historic figure played in promoting cooperation and communication between the Syilx people and early European settlers. The monument is now situated in a prominent location along the Kelowna waterfront.
Airport Public Art	Airport staff have worked with the Westbank First Nation to develop a recently unveiled culture and history display in the Departures Room and local Indigenous artists are also a feature within the rotating main art wall at the airport on a regular basis.
New Sewer Installation	The City has engaged with Westbank First Nation for a proposed sewer project in urbanized areas of the City, including archaeological monitoring, study and resource commitments.

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Bernard Avenue Revitalization	<p>Street features are rooted in Kelowna's heritage and natural landscapes, and local Indigenous culture. Nsyilxcən language is used on 50 in-laid polished pavers describing local flora and fauna. A gateway feature welcomes visitors and marks the transition from residential to commercial through eight uniquely programmed light poles with double-sided banners designed by Westbank First Nation artist Janine Lott, and metal plates inscribed with the word "welcome" in English and Nsyilxcən languages.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely align with the work undertaken are Call #43 and #83.</p>
Drinking Water for Vulnerable Populations	<p>Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and overdose crisis, lack of drinking water access for vulnerable populations has been exposed and exacerbated within the community. The City, industry partners and the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's Outreach Team worked together to achieve a number of year-round accessible water fountains.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely align with the work undertaken are Call #20 and #43.</p>
Principles of Conduct Guidelines	<p>A project to revise our principles of conduct is currently underway. This will include a segment on Indigenous cultural awareness as part of implementation training for staff.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely align to the work being undertaken are Call #43 and #57.</p>
Diversity and Inclusion Strategy	<p>This strategy is a key initiative of the City's five-year HR Plan, which will help achieve the goal of increasing the representation of diverse genders, abilities, and cultures in the City's workforce.</p>
Sustainable Purchasing Policy	<p>Informally and with growing recognition, project staff have been prioritizing hiring Indigenous consultants or working with Indigenous-owned firms for projects where engagement with Indigenous peoples is a central focus (e.g. 2040 OCP, recommendations from City staff made to the RCDO COPAW Strategy).</p>

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TRC Article 57 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.	
Project	Scope of Activity
2040 OCP	<p>The City is applying a localized Indigenous lens to the OCP, while specifically focusing on arts, heritage, and culture aspects. The proposed framework to achieve this objective involved three key areas of focus in developing the OCP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Local Indigenous Organizations (including ONA) • New Policy Development • History-Enrichment
Reconciliation Education Workshops and Staff Training	The City of Kelowna collaborated with the En'owkin Centre, the Institute for Community Engaged Research (ICER) and UBC Okanagan to deliver three learning workshops led by Syilx facilitators, attended by 70 staff and managers in 2017 and 2018.
Territory Acknowledgement Guidelines and Protocols	Staff developed Territory Acknowledgement Guidelines and protocols, with review by the Westbank First Nation Governance Committee and the Okanagan Nation Alliance followed by implementation of Territory Acknowledgement practices by Council and staff.
Reconciliation Learning Resources	Foundational learning resources for staff are posted on InSites and include links to reports from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, resources regarding Indigenous history, language and terminology, and examples of reconciliation initiatives in other municipalities.
Ki-Lawna Meeting Room	The City engaged with Westbank First Nation in the naming of the Ki-Lawna meeting room in City Hall. A smudging ceremony was led by a Westbank First Nation Elder with participation from Mayor and Council.
Reading Circles: Truth and Reconciliation Report / 94 Calls to Action	Through partnerships between community organizations including the Okanagan Regional Library, Amnesty International, Sunshine Rotary Club, and First United Church, a group of approximately 75 City staff and community members have been reading through the Executive Summary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report and 94 Calls to Action, with opportunities for discussion and reflection.

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Peer Navigator Program – Organizational Training Plan	As one of the three local organizations chosen to pilot the PEOPLE: Peer Navigator Capacity Building Project, the staff at the Parkinson Recreation Centre have participated in the Peer Navigator Program’s Organizational Training designed to prepare the City to host Peer Navigators. Reconcili-ACTION: Build Meaningful Relations with Indigenous Peoples is a series of innovative workshops based on stories and creative activities to help staff unpack implicit bias, privilege, and microaggressions. The training guides staff through a foundation of Indigenous skills in seeing different perspectives, equity, accountability, and inclusion.
TRC Article 83 We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process	
Project	Scope of Activity
Bernard Avenue Revitalization	<p>Street features are rooted in Kelowna’s heritage and natural landscapes, and local Indigenous culture. Nsyilxcən language is used on 50 in-laid polished pavers describing local flora and fauna. A gateway feature welcomes visitors and marks the transition from residential to commercial through eight uniquely programmed light poles with double-sided banners designed by Westbank First Nation artist Janine Lott, and metal plates inscribed with the word “welcome” in English and Nsyilxcən languages.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which most closely align with the work undertaken are Call #43 and #83.</p>
No Specific Call to Action: Other notable Municipal efforts & partnership with key community stakeholders.	
Project	Scope of Activity
2040 Transportation Master Plan (TMP)	The 2040 TMP is incorporating Indigenous community feedback gathered through the 2040 OCP and other processes, to help consolidate the number of touchpoints and requests of Indigenous partners.
Okanagan Gateway Transportation Study (OGTS)	The Okanagan Gateway Transportation Study (OGTS) was a partnership between the City of Kelowna, MoTI, UBCO, and YLW to look at existing and future transportation issues in the Gateway Area. In addition to engagement activities undertaken through the RTP process, meetings were held with Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band to review and discuss key interests in the project area.

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Airport Master Plan 2045	Input from the Okanagan Indian Band and Westbank First Nation was sought as part of refining the Airport Master plan.
Airport Advisory Committee	Westbank First Nation is represented on the YLW Airport Advisory Committee.
Bertram Overpass Project	Collaboration is occurring with Westbank First Nation to provide archaeological review and contribute land and cultural knowledge to the site planning and design.
Pandosy Waterfront Park	Westbank First Nation is engaged with the project team in assessing items of cultural significance on the future Pandosy Waterfront Park site, in alignment with the Heritage Conservation Act.
Bellevue Creek & Gopher Creek & Ok Waterfront Linear Park Trails	Collaboration has occurred with Westbank First Nation to provide archaeological monitoring during construction.
Rutland to Okanagan Rail Trail Active Transportation Corridor	Westbank First Nation is leading the archaeological investigations. Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band have both provided letters of support for the project as part of City grant applications.
YLW 2008 Runway Extension	Collaboration occurred with local First Nations representatives in the planning for this project, including a First Nations archeological assessment of the airport.
South Perimeter Road	The City is supporting the process of working with First Nations to investigate a number of sites of archaeological significance that were discovered.
Indigenous Hiring and Recruitment	The City regularly participates in local Indigenous career fairs in the community, specific to students seeking advice on career options. City staff also attend the Indigenous Trades conference in Kelowna to learn more about creating opportunities for trades training for Indigenous students. YLW has also provided several on-site field trips for Indigenous people wishing to explore aviation sector job opportunities, coordinated by Seabird Island.
Digital Assets	In 2020, City staff completed an audit of Corporate digital assets (photography and videography) and developed parameters to increase diverse representation of subjects in city photography and videography.
Okanagan Rail Trail acquisition & Visual Identity	In 2019 a specific logo and brand identity for the Okanagan Rail Trail was established through a collaborative process in which

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	<p>OKIB was included. Pictographs in the logo and language in the visual identity guide reflect the integration of their contributions to establishing the identity of this multi-jurisdictional trail, including the First Nations history and use of nsyilxcen in the context of this project.</p> <p>Municipal partners in the committee have also supported OKIB and advocated for the return to reserve process through the federal government currently underway for the portion of the trail on the Duck Lake reserve.</p>
Rutland to Okanagan Rail Trail Active Transportation Corridor	<p>Since last fall, City staff have communicated with Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band and hosted a virtual meeting to discuss the project in detail. Westbank First Nation is leading the archaeological investigations. Westbank First Nation identified the need for an Archeological Investigation Assessment, and pending permit approval, will work with a consulting team to complete this work and report the results to the Province. Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band have both provided letters of support for the project as part of City grant applications.</p>

Relevant calls to action where the City of Kelowna may have a peripheral influence, be involved in future initiatives or where there may be the ability to support the efforts of others include the following:

TRC Article 17 We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers.

TRC Article 47 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

TRC Article 55 We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:

- i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.
- ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.

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- iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.
- iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
- v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.
- vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.
- vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.

TRC Article 75 We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

TRC Article 77 We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

TRC Article 87 We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

TRC Article 88 We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.