



Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action



Update for the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Advisory Committee
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Overview


At the December 8, 2015 meeting of Council, Administration was directed to advance three specific Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report:

Call to Action #57, related to intercultural competency training for municipal employees;

Call to Action #77, related to municipal and community archives working with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation;

Call to Action #82, related to developing a prominent memorial, acknowledging the history of Canada's residential school system.


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Call to Action #57

Call to Action #57 calls “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.”


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Call to Action #57 - Progress

- The Human Resources division has been working with local First Nations (COTTFN, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee-Delaware FN) to develop an intercultural competency training package for City of London staff.
- The First Nations portion of the training program will include:
 - information about First Nations communities that the City serves or is connected to;
 - the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
 - history, culture and needs of First Nations;
 - lived experiences of urban Aboriginal communities.
- This training will be rolled out at the Employee Update in October 2017. With the theme for the 2017/2018 year involving diversity and inclusion.


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Call to Action #77

Call to Action #77 calls upon “provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the newly established National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg 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.”


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Call to Action #77 - Progress

- The London Public Library lead the collection of records from local institutions relating to the residential school system, in collaboration with local First Nations communities and organizations.
- All relevant records which were identified as part of this process have now been forwarded on to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

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Call to Action #82

Call to Action #82 calls upon provincial and territorial governments “to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities”.


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Call to Action #82 - Progress

- The City's Culture Office and the London Arts Council (LAC) are co-leading the development a monument in the City of London, through the City of London's Public Art Program.
- The Arts Council has been working to establish a base of Aboriginal artists, and meetings are ongoing between the London Arts Council, City Administration, and First Nations representatives.
- This year's City of London Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP) 'Artist in Residence' program will include an Indigenous artist. The selected artist will work with the LAC and the Culture Office to develop the Truth and Reconciliation Monument.


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Collaborating Across Service Areas

- Planning
 - The London Plan
 - My Dundas Place
 - Archaeological Master Plan
- Environmental and Engineering Services
 - Residual Waste Disposal Strategy
 - Pollution Prevention and Control Plan
 - One River Environmental Assessment
 - Diggins Subwatershed Master Plan EA
 - Hyde Park Community Stormwater Servicing EA Addendum
- Children's Services
 - Collaborating with N'Ametind Friendship Centre to develop proposals that increase access to Indigenous-led child care and early years programming London and Middlesex
 - Supported N'Ametind Friendship Centre & A'Nohsa to hold physical activity March Break camp in 2016 through Healthy Kids Community Challenge
- Human Resources
 - Working with First Nations employment resources to connect individuals with City HR talent acquisition staff.
 - Working on developing a training package that is similar in format to the Mental Health package
 - Creating a Quiet Space and a Celebration Space.


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Sharing Resources

- COTTFN staff were invited to obtain training for maintenance of water/wastewater technical certification by and with City of London staff.
- Fire Services supports their Indigenous fire fighters to provide recruitment information and fire safety education to First Nations communities.
- Human Resources division works with First Nations employment resources to connect individuals with City HR talent acquisition staff.


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Jordan's Principle

- The Middlesex-London Health Unit has adopted Jordan's Principle, which aims to improve the healthcare outcomes for First Nations children.
- Jordan's Principle is named for Jordan River Anderson, who was born with a rare disorder and required care in a medical foster home. The federal and provincial governments could not agree on who was financially responsible for providing the care Jordan needed, and he passed away in hospital before an agreement was reached.
- "When Middlesex-London Health Unit programs and services are requested by First Nations children, the Health Unit shall pay for services for a Status Indian child where that service is available to other children. This service shall be provided without delay or disruption."

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Indigenous Culture Card

- Developed through collaboration between the Child and Youth Network and Healthy Weights Connection (Western University), supported by the City of London and the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
- Content developed in direct collaboration with many First Nations communities and organizations.
- The card serves as a step towards cultural competence and understanding, and is being distributed widely to service providers and organizations in the London and Middlesex area.

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Next Steps

- Civic Administration reviewing other TRC Calls to Action related to municipalities to determine what other steps can be taken.
- Political-to-political relationship building ongoing.
- Consultation on the appropriateness of raising Munsee-Delaware, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation flags at City Hall.

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Thank you

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