



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 12:05 p.m.

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	Opening Statement: The City of Yellowknife acknowledges that we are located in Chief Drygeese territory. From time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of all other Indigenous Peoples including the North Slave Métis, and all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.
2.	Approval of the agenda.
3.	Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.
ANNEX A	
4.	A memorandum regarding whether to approve the 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.
<u>IN CAMERA</u>	
ANNEX B	(Additional Council Item)
5.	A memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
ANNEX C	(Additional Council Item)
6.	A memorandum whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.
7.	Business arising from In Camera Session.



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: Governance and Priorities

DATE: April 11, 2023

DEPARTMENT: Administration

ISSUE: Whether to approve the 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.

BACKGROUND:

Council identified Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples as one of its core values in Council's 2019-2022 Goals and Objectives. Prior to that, Council had adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2015 as part of its response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action (Motion #0324-15). Council is currently finalizing its Strategic Goals and Objectives and reconciliation remains a key priority that will inform the City's actions in future years.

The City developed the Reconciliation Framework¹ and the Reconciliation Action Plan² as part its commitment to reconciliation. The Framework is a high level policy document which lays out the City's broad goals and principles for reconciliation. The Action Plan is a living document that is updated regularly, providing concrete actions on the City's journey towards reconciliation. Subsequent to Council approval in April 2022, the Framework and Draft 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan were sent to a broad range of partners and stakeholders across the NWT for review, input and comments. The City also hosted a public gathering on August 31, 2022 to provide residents with the opportunity to engage on reconciliation in Yellowknife.

The information and ideas received throughout the engagement process have been used to inform the proposed actions contained in the 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.

¹ See <https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/resources/Reconciliation/Reconciliation-Framework.pdf>

² See <https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/resources/Reconciliation/Reconciliation-Action-Plan.pdf>

2019 – 2022 City of Yellowknife Councils Goals and Objectives

Value – Reconciliation: The City is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples

GOAL #3: Ensuring a high quality of life for all, including future generations

Council Motion #0324-15

That Council adopt the following recommendations on how to move forward on the actions recommended by the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*:

Article 43: Adopt the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Article 47: The Mayor corresponds with the GWNT to ensure that any and all laws that rely upon the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius are repudiated.

Article 57: That funding be identified for the provision of skill-based training for all City staff to undergo that will provide a learning experience on the history of Aboriginal peoples relating to residential schools; UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Treaties and Aboriginal Rights, Indigenous Law; and, Aboriginal–Crown relations. Articles 75, 76,

and 77: The Mayor correspond with the GNWT and School Boards encouraging them to ensure that they provide any and all information pertaining to identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries/sites where residential school children are buried, and for them to provide all known records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Council Motion #0167-19

That:

1. Council direct Administration to undertake community engagement, using the “Reconciliation: Starting the Conversation” document, as the first step in developing a reconciliation action plan.
2. Council direct Administration to undertake community engagement through various means including:
 - i. Attending meetings/assemblies hosted by Indigenous governments and organizations;
 - ii. Proactive outreach to Indigenous governments and organizations;
 - iii. Hosting gatherings in Yellowknife over the summer; and

- iv. Providing opportunities for online and written submissions.

Council Motion # 0060-20

That Council direct Administration to initiate the following actions, using the \$50,000 allocated within Budget 2020, for the purpose of continuing to advance reconciliation until the Reconciliation Plan is prepared in draft for consideration and Indigenous partner/public consultation:

- Elder in Residence
- Intercultural & Placemaking Plan
- MOU with YKDFN
- Paint North
- Wilideh language on Stop signs
- Community Blanket Exercise

Council Motion # 0063-21

That:

1. The Community Energy Plan Committee be dissolved and that the City conduct a Community Roundtable annually to report on implementation of the City's Community Energy Plan;
2. The University Post Secondary Advisory Committee be dissolved and that the City support a network of stakeholders;
3. The Terms of Reference for the Heritage Committee be amended to change frequency of meetings;
4. The City conduct a Community Roundtable annually with respect to Reconciliation; and
5. Council direct Administration to draft and bring forward a Framework for Public Engagement that utilizes various approaches to engagement.

Council Motion #119-21

That Council direct Administration to release the Reconciliation Framework and Reconciliation Action Plan for broad public engagement and feedback from Indigenous partners, governments and members of the public.

Council Motion #060-22

That Council approve the draft 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan for public review and engagement.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, BY-LAWS, STUDIES, PLANS:

1. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*; and
2. Reconciliation Framework.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Engagement with Indigenous Partners

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife and the YKDFN commits us to principles of cooperation operating within a government to government context. Engaging proactively with YKDFN on reconciliation actions supports and strengthens the relationship between our two governments and contributes to the foundation of mutual trust and respect. Ongoing communications with North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) remains an important priority.

Indigenous Relations

The Reconciliation Action Plan is a living document that will evolve, based on ongoing input from Indigenous peoples, governments, organizations, businesses, and all people who call Yellowknife and the surrounding area home. While the priority for engagement is with the two Indigenous stakeholders whose traditional lands the City exists upon – YKDFN and NSMA - broader engagement with NWT and northern Indigenous governments and organizations is an important step in reconciliation.

Community Engagement

Community members were provided with several options to share feedback and ideas through various forms of engagement. The City invited Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to *Walking Together – Reconciliation Gathering 2022* on August 31, 2022. The intent of the gathering was to: provide a forum for all interested residents and partners to engage on reconciliation in Yellowknife; seek ideas for actions within the City's mandate that the City can undertake; and welcome all ideas on reconciliation and forward those beyond the City's mandate to respective leads/governments/partners for consideration, advocacy and/or follow up.

For those unable to attend the gathering, feedback could be provided through an online survey. The City also continually accepts feedback via a dedicated email address reconciliation@yellowknife.ca.

Next Steps

The City will continue to assess and implement actions within its mandate that are identified through engagement. For those items identified during engagement that are outside the City's scope and mandate, the City will ensure that the responsible levels of governments are made aware of the suggestions and ideas raised.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:

Committee may opt to provide direction on alternative ways to proceed with reconciliation.

RATIONALE:

Seeking to engage is a key part of the foundation of reconciliation and will ensure that the Draft 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. What We Heard Report (DM#716898); and
2. 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan (DM#678169).

Prepared: March 28, 2023 KLT



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

Walking Together Reconciliation Gathering 2022

What We Heard Report

City of Yellowknife

Prepared by Tanya Tourangeau

November 29, 2022

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WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Executive Summary

Introduction

The City of Yellowknife invited Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to *Walking Together – Reconciliation Gathering 2022*, a public gathering at the Tree of Peace on the evening of August 31st. The intent of the gathering was to: provide a forum for all interested residents and partners to engage on reconciliation in Yellowknife; seek ideas for actions within the City's mandate that the City can undertake; and welcome all ideas on reconciliation and forward those beyond the City's mandate to respective leads/governments/partners for consideration, advocacy and/or follow up.

Tanya T Consulting, led by Tanya Tourangeau, was contracted, along with Deneze Nakehk'o, to co-design and facilitate the gathering, and prepare a follow up report.

Background

The City of Yellowknife embarked on their journey of Reconciliation soon after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Actions were declared in June of 2015, with City Council endorsing them on July 27, 2015. Since then, the City has developed and approved a Reconciliation Framework and Reconciliation Action Plan with the goal that: All of the City's work on reconciliation needs to be directed at building positive, respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and ensuring a welcoming community for all.

The *Walking Together – Reconciliation Gathering 2022* provided an opportunity to connect with the community, hear from them about the City's reconciliation efforts to date, and to provide a forum to share ideas that may be added to the Reconciliation Action Plan and/or advocated for on behalf of the community.

Community Engagement

Community members were provided with several options to share feedback and ideas through various forms of engagement. In addition to large group discussions, *input stations* were available to share ideas through: small group discussions, artistically, on post-it notes, and an online survey. The City also continually accepts feedback via a dedicated email address reconciliation@yellowknife.ca.

Themes

Initial themes were identified to help guide the discussion and to share what the City has done and is actively working on.

City Introduced Themes:

1. Relationships
2. Learning and Culture
3. Events / Celebrations
4. Indigenizing Space
5. Advocacy
6. Business and Economy
7. Inclusive Representation within the City government

The themes encouraged community members to participate with robust, meaningful responses that went beyond the suggested themes with several suggested internal and external actions.

What We Heard Themes

1. Truth
2. Reconciliation
3. Canada's Colonial Legacy
4. Indigenize Reconciliation
5. Language, Arts, and Culture
6. Public Education
7. Leadership, Governance, and the Law
8. Health, Housing, and Poverty
9. Commemoration
10. Yellowknife of the Future

Each of the themes have several actions identified within.

Summary

The *Walking Together – Reconciliation Gathering 2022* provided great insight to what priorities community members would like the City of Yellowknife to focus on. Next steps will be to review and analyze the recommended actions to determine how the City can implement and / or advocate for them.

What We Heard

Themes

All feedback and ideas resulting from the *Walking Together – Reconciliation Gathering 2022* have been compiled into the following themes: (1) Truth; (2) Reconciliation; (3) Canada’s Colonial Legacy; (4) Indigenize Reconciliation; (5) Language, Arts, and Culture; (6) Public Education; (7) Leadership, Governance, and the Law; (8) Health, Housing, and Poverty; (9) Commemoration; and (10) Yellowknife of the Future. This section provides a summary of ideas, concerns, recommendations, and future directions of these themes.

1. Truth

Reconciliation is listening to the truth and taking action

We heard that we require the truth. Reconciliation work requires truth-telling and sharing. Without the truth, there can be no reconciliation. However, we must use caution while asserting that we must start with the truth. For a long time, Indigenous Peoples have been seeking to speak the truth, but those in positions of power have not taken the time, comprehended the depth, or even acknowledged it. Thus, the truth must be recognized and accepted, and it must become the new standard. We heard that we would miss the mark if we do not first comprehend the truth.

Participants raised concerns that the truth is uncertain. Yellowknife cannot move forward with reconciliation when everyone holds varying accounts of the facts. As a capital city, Yellowknife is in a position of leadership, so we need to be careful of how others interpret the truth. Participants suggested that we are all on the same team, and we must move forward with certainty in the truth.

Views were expressed that an important component of reconciliation actions is to listen, hear, and understand. Listening instead of always trying to speak over one another is important. It is especially important for non-Indigenous people to listen when Indigenous Peoples are speaking. Further, in the discussions of reconciliation, there needs to be the willingness and bravery to have honest, uncomfortable, and difficult conversations, and they must include patience and kindness.

Use an Indigenous perspective to engage in listening

We heard that listening to the truth is key to reconciliation work. From a Cree perspective, there are four sets of ears: the physical set on the head, a set on the heart, a set on the mind, and a set on the soul. It teaches that listening involves deep connections to the heart, mind, and soul. Thus, listening to understand the truth at deeper levels is an important part of reconciliation. However, views were expressed that true listening is undervalued in Canadian culture. The issues with listening include willful ignorance and arrogance. It was suggested that people do not want to understand the truth, or believe they know better. One way to change these elements of Canadian culture is to have the courage to call them out and to become agents of change.

It is truth and reconciliation

Some participants emphasized that it is important to talk about truth *and* reconciliation. Truth and reconciliation require one another. That is, reconciliation acts should be supported by the truth. People said that the public should know the truth about the region's history, treaty duties, land acknowledgements, and the relationships between the different communities. Also, participants said that public education should be used to find and spread the truth. We heard that understanding the truth will aid in the transformation of minds. Finally, connecting the truth to actions will inspire positive reconciliation work, while simple performative actions without truth-telling will not lead to positive change.

Honour Indigenous Treaty Rights

Participants suggested that honouring the treaties, specifically treaties 8 and 11, is about positive, open, and meaningful relationships. It is among the best ways to represent reconciliation. This means accepting the facts about treaty history, recognizing who owns the land, and living up to the obligations of the treaties. It was suggested that the treaties are guides to the nature of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. However, an issue was raised that a lot of people are not interested in learning about the guide. But it is a guide to help the relationship, so it is important to know the path and build awareness. Lastly, we heard that the City of Yellowknife is encouraged to educate the public in a wide range of ways as part of this initiative.

2. Reconciliation

Reconciliation has many different qualities

We heard that "reconciliation" is a heavy word in many places and situations, and it is important to remember that it was the word chosen by the people who shared their truths about the residential school system.

Participants described reconciliation in many different ways. Reconciliation was identified as including equality, love, respect, trust, humility, harmony, honesty, a path forward, acceptance, participation, recognition, collaboration, positive change, creative actions, diversity, mutual agreement, dignity, an opportunity for all, understanding, learning, education, safety, acknowledgement, inspiring, decency, togetherness, fearlessness, inclusivity, individual responsibility, courage, bravery, everyday behaviour, and public awareness. Reconciliation was also described as hard, lonely, and scary.

For some participants, reconciliation was defined by what it was not as well. It is not: doing the easy thing first, a box to be checked off, surface-level changes, simplifying the truth, ignoring injustices, or one-off events.

Reconciliation is difficult and mistakes will be made, but learn from them

We heard that reconciliation is challenging work. It is hard to have these conversations, but we need to have them. It is important to give acknowledgement when things are challenging. It is part of growing. The path to reconciliation is not an easy walk. There are a lot of things that we must discover together, and there will be mistakes made on the path to reconciliation. It was suggested that we will seek to rectify mistakes and to move forward together. Finally, we heard that we must try to be open and supportive enough to learn from our mistakes.

Reconciliation is missing from public awareness

A few participants commented that they could not think of any meaningful examples of reconciliation work in the City of Yellowknife.

Reconciliation is ongoing and evolving

Participants recommended that the City can further reconciliation by continually gathering input on the public's understanding of reconciliation through surveys because the meaning of reconciliation will change, and the City should pay special attention to Indigenous Peoples' understandings.

Reconciliation is truth-telling and action-based

We heard that the focus should be on creating more opportunities for reconciliation, such as having more public gatherings for reconciliation work. It is truth-telling and sharing that are important to this type of work. Hopefully, it will keep our eyes open and provide us with a better understanding. Further, it was suggested that when there is no action or follow-through, people lose heart, which makes it difficult for further engagement in reconciliation. Participants suggested that acting based on the truth will inspire long-lasting positive change. Lastly, connecting the truth to actions will lead to positive reconciliation work, while just doing things without telling the truth will not change things for the better.

Reconciliation embraces collective wisdom

We heard that we all have wisdom. It was said that your lived experience, your knowledge, and your intelligence add up to your wisdom. If we want to work together and get the wisest results, it is important for people to share their wisdom. We heard that accepting the wisdom that comes from working together will help turn talks about reconciliation into real actions.

Reconciliation is relationship and community building

We heard that building stronger relationships and a sense of community were among the top priorities for reconciliation. Some participants emphasized that it is all about building them, maintaining them, and honouring them. However, the colonial system creates division. It keeps us apart and isolated. Yellowknife is a city with a wide range of cultures.

That is a strength and asset of Yellowknife. Participants stressed the need for equality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples from all parts of Canada and the world. It was suggested that acknowledging the diversity of the Yellowknife population, rather than excluding and labelling individuals as outsiders, goes a long way toward making individuals feel like they are a part of the community. Thus, there needs to be acknowledgement of everyone in the region to build a sense of community. We heard that community is important, not just in terms of the different cultures in the City of Yellowknife but also in terms of reconciliation. Finally, participants suggested that it is important that, as a community, we are all in this together and that we are all walking the walk together.

Participants suggested several ways to build stronger relationships and foster community with Indigenous Peoples:

- First, Council should reach out to and interact with Indigenous Peoples for its own purposes and not just as part of an agenda item. That is, Council should visit where the people are and listen to their experiences. In these contexts, Council should periodically ask Indigenous Peoples about their understanding of reconciliation. This will build real, trusting relationships.
- Second, participants said that community events like the Métis fish fry and Canada Day at City Hall were important for reconciliation. On a large scale, as one participant suggested, this could look like mandatory city-wide blanket exercises that are held a few times a year. In addition, non-Indigenous Yellowknife leaders should connect with people by bringing their families to Indigenous cultural events. For instance, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation hosts a Mother's Day barbecue that is inclusive of everyone. If non-Indigenous leadership makes a move to accept Indigenous Peoples, it will speak volumes.
- Third, the City could create and support a reconciliation volunteer program, so residents can volunteer where needed in Indigenous activities, businesses, and other organizations or events.
- Finally, Council could create a community supper program. The suppers could be guided by icebreakers, sponsored by businesses, and hosted by community leaders. The idea is to bring people together through food to get to know each other.

It was said that land and spaces hold a special place in people's hearts and minds, so developing spaces for future relationships and community building is important. Participants recommended a few approaches for the City to consider:

- First, the City of Yellowknife could create a green space with a park for children and families to connect to the land and water.
- Second, residents could embrace the water by developing the waterfront in Old Town, fixing the Frame Lake Trail, and creating more spaces where people can be outside enjoying all that Mother Nature has to offer.

- Third, the City could develop the Bristol Monument area for tourists and include an interactive area that provides education about Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories.
- Finally, participants recommended building an Indigenous cultural center or reconciliation center. As a living monument for reconciliation work, it could be a place for all Northerners to come together to build trusting and long-lasting relationships through community engagement.

3. Canada's Colonial Legacy

Acknowledge colonialism

Participants suggested that the City can further reconciliation by acknowledging and educating the public on the historical colonial injustices and experiences that have led to the present-day circumstances of inequalities.

We heard that the City of Yellowknife operates a settler government on Chief Drygeese territory. Further, Yellowknife was not supposed to be built on the land. The area was said to be important to the traditional Yellowknives Dene way of life. The area was supposed to be left pristine because animals used the region for subsistence. But the City did not follow any of the Yellowknives Dene's protocols.

Participants raised concerns about an anti-Indigenous mindset in Canadian culture. It was discussed that Indigenous Peoples face overt racism and discrimination from a young age. So, getting rid of racism and white supremacy was mentioned as one of the most important steps toward reconciliation. We heard that this is obvious to Indigenous Peoples. But non-Indigenous people have the privilege of ignoring it or believing it is not true. It was suggested that when an Indigenous person discloses their experience, it must be listened to, believed, and acknowledged. In this respect, we heard that we need the courage to embrace visionary ideas, to not accept the unacceptable, to call it out, and to become agents of change. Some people said that education and awareness are the best ways to fight racism and discrimination.

We were told that it is important to remember that the United Kingdom colonized both Indigenous ways of knowing and the Canadian government. Our government system was originally created for small tracts of land in another part of the world. Thus, as Canadians, we originally did not have the opportunity to have a say in our own systems of government, but it was suggested that we have the power to work together to make new structures and processes that benefit everyone.

Colonialism slows reconciliation

People have said that compared to other Canadian cities, the presence of Indigenous Peoples' communities and cultures in Yellowknife seems to be growing, but not as much as they should be given that the city has a large Indigenous population and is on Chief Drygeese's territory. Participants suggest that if we did everything in terms of Dene law, reconciliation would proceed at

a faster rate. Thus, we heard that we need to embrace traditional Indigenous knowledge in our reconciliation work.

Colonialism distorts Indigenous identities

It was suggested that part of the colonial project of being an Indigenous person in Canada involves non-Indigenous people defining the meaning of Indigenous identities, such as being called an “Indian,” “Aboriginal,” or “Native American.” We heard that there is a lack of acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples as people. Further, we heard the concern that the Yellowknives Dene have been stuck with that name not because of their choice but rather because an Indian agent named them. According to one participant, a lack of genuine listening to Indigenous Peoples exacerbates the problem.

Indigenous people can struggle with a colonial inferiority complex

A participant expressed concerns about a colonial inferiority complex that affects Indigenous Peoples. It is an internalization of colonial standards that has adverse effects on mental well-being. We heard that Indigenous knowledge could support resiliency against colonial oppression. As one participant suggested, an enduring strength of Indigenous Peoples is that no matter the hardships we are going through, we laugh because our Dene law is to be as happy as possible at all times.

Decolonize the approach to public engagement for understanding reconciliation

One participant said that the public survey on reconciliation was written from a Western point of view instead of from an Indigenous point of view on how everything is connected. However, Yellowknife has a large Indigenous population, so culturally informed approaches to community engagement would help to better understand reconciliation.

4. Indigenize Reconciliation

Respect Indigenous Ways of Being

Participants suggested that the best way to show reconciliation is to take part in Indigenous ways of life. Further, we heard that we need to follow the direction of the Indigenous community and sincerely understand the struggles that the Indigenous community faces. It is important to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples’ resiliency and strengths. Reconciliation, therefore, for many participants, requires celebrating Indigenous cultures on equal terms.

Embrace Indigenous knowledge for reconciliation work

Participants commented that Indigenous knowledge is valuable to reconciliation. It is important to grow awareness of the traditional knowledge of all Indigenous groups that gather in the City of Yellowknife, and it is equally important to respect traditional intellectual property rights.

One participant quoted Shelia Watt-Cloutier. “Indigenous knowledge is the medicine the world seeks to attain sustainability.” As a result, Indigenous knowledge offers a way forward together.

People talked about using Dene laws as a set of rules for how to act when doing reconciliation work. Several laws were shared to facilitate reconciliation interactions: (1) helping each other; (2) loving each other as much as possible; (3) being respectful to Elders and everything around you; (4) working through the day; (5) being polite; (6) not arguing with anyone; (7) young girls and boys should behave respectfully on the teachings; and (8) be as happy as possible at all times.

5. Language, Arts, and Culture

Support Indigenous language revitalization

Street signs in the Wìlìideh dialect across the City of Yellowknife were identified as a good representation of reconciliation. Several people also talked about how important it was to improve the situation of Indigenous languages in the City of Yellowknife. Their concerns, ideas, and recommendations included (1) renaming streets; (2) supporting youth in language acquisition; (3) documenting Elders speaking and storytelling to connect to the community; (4) providing Indigenous language services throughout the City; and (5) providing an Indigenous languages pronunciation guide to the public. Ultimately, one participant commented that residents should be proud of the regional diversity of languages.

Support Indigenous arts

Many people said that the public Indigenous art installations, murals, and performances were some of the best ways that the City of Yellowknife showed reconciliation. These included the Strong People, Strong Communities murals, the Old Town rock art, and the Dene drummers' statue. Though, others expressed criticism of reconciliation art projects as being shallow or failing to represent the local Indigenous Peoples, such as with the totem pole at City Hall.

Several participants said they would support more art projects that would bring more Indigenous Peoples to Yellowknife. They recommended many options.

- First, expand social and economic support for young artists.
- Second, put up more art downtown. For example, the City could put up metal bike racks that look like dog sleds or canoes.
- Third, hold an annual arts and music festival. Fourth, stamp fish, wildlife, and birds into the concrete when making new sidewalks.
- Finally, offer community art programs for beading, sewing, drum making, painting, and carving. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for reconciliation to seek out highly visible displays of Indigenous art.

Acknowledge the diversity of Indigenous cultures

A couple of participants commented that Indigenous cultures are not well represented in Yellowknife. Other participants suggested that there should be a proper acknowledgement of all of the past and present Indigenous Peoples who have called the land home.

Embrace Indigenous cultural inclusion

Community members suggested that participating in Indigenous cultural practices best represents reconciliation. We heard that reconciliation involves embracing the diversity of traditional cultures of all the nations that gather in Yellowknife. It requires actions of celebrating different cultures on equal terms. For instance, participants identified the Métis fish fry and Dene drumming as representations of reconciliation. Further, increasing city funding for Indigenous-led cultural events was recommended by participants. Future Indigenous culturally inspired reconciliation events could be directed toward hand games tournaments, drum dances, and culture camps at Samba K'e Park. It was suggested that the goal is to make residents feel that Indigenous culture is embedded in the Yellowknife community.

Indigenous culture provides resiliency during reconciliation work

As one participant suggested, an enduring strength of Indigenous Peoples is that no matter the hardships we are going through, we laugh because our Dene law is to be as happy as possible at all times. Thus, an Indigenous perspective of the world can help successfully adapt to difficult reconciliation experiences.

Build a dedicated facility for Indigenous cultural practices

Several participants recommended that a cultural space for Indigenous peoples would build positive community relationships. This could be in the form of a community arbour. The culturally focused facility could be used for prayer, healing, education, ceremonies, celebrations, performances, and other community gatherings. Ultimately, participants commented that it could be a gathering space for all northern Indigenous Peoples. One contributor commented that an Indigenous-themed playground should also be built beside the facility for families and youth.

6. Public Education

Public education should include key topics to further reconciliation

Participants suggested using public education to increase the representation of Indigenous Peoples, communities, cultures, and histories in Yellowknife. They identified the following topics as important to reconciliation: (1) Treaties 8 and 11; (2) educating all Canadians on local histories; (3) acknowledgement of all Indigenous cultures and lands in the region; and (4) Indigenous languages.

City of Yellowknife staff should receive specific ongoing training for reconciliation

A few people said that the City of Yellowknife government should give its employees training in certain areas. These areas include intercultural competency, sensitivity training, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism. Also, one participant stressed how important it was to carry out the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 57.

TRC's Call to Action #57 - Professional Development and Training for Public Servants

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 skillsbased training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Use diverse strategies for education for reconciliation

Participants recommended many ways to approach education initiatives for the purposes of reconciliation. Twelve strategies were identified: (1) involving Elders and traditional knowledge keepers in the initiative; (2) focusing on early childhood education; (3) redesigning school curricula with required readings of Indigenous authors; (4) using art and monuments as a vehicle for education; (5) holding a speaker series on reconciliation; (6) providing free courses at the library; (7) using a reconciliation walk to teach about local histories; (8) providing a public Indigenous language pronunciation guide; (9) placing informational plaques in public spaces; (10) developing interactive areas for tourists to educate themselves; (11) providing Indigenous-led cultural camps at Samba K'e Park; and (12) offering residents the Government of the Northwest Territories' Living Well Together training and follow up support in a Yellowknife facility.

Provide special education to new residents of the City of Yellowknife

One person said that a welcoming committee should meet with new residents in person to properly introduce them to Yellowknife. The goal would be to teach new residents in a respectful way about protocols, ceremonies, and other parts of Indigenous culture.

7. Leadership, Governance, and the Law

Integrate Indigenous laws into the governance

Participants recommended the creation of a more inclusive legal framework. We heard that the City should start incorporating Indigenous laws into governance. That is, legal pluralism could exist with equal representation and authority of Indigenous laws and City laws. Participants thought that putting less emphasis on Western legal processes could speed up reconciliation work.

Use Dene Laws to facilitate reconciliation work

People have suggested that Dene laws can be used as a guide for conducting reconciliation work. Several laws were shared to facilitate reconciliation interactions: (1) helping each other; (2) loving

each other as much as possible; (3) being respectful to Elders and everything around you; (4) working through the day; (5) being polite; (6) not arguing with anyone; (7) young girls and boys should behave respectfully on the teachings; and (8) be as happy as possible at all times.

Include Elders and traditional knowledge keepers in decision-making

We heard that if reconciliation is going to work, everyone needs to be included. Participants suggested that it is important to consult with Elders and traditional knowledge keepers in decision-making processes. One suggestion for improving relationships with Indigenous Peoples is to create an Elder in Residence position on City Council. The responsibilities of the position could include providing feedback to the City of Yellowknife employees or operating as a liaison to connect youth, families, and other Elders to community resources.

The City of Yellowknife should take a leadership role in Canada on reconciliation

We heard that the City of Yellowknife should take charge of organizing, guiding, and managing reconciliation work by leading by example. Yellowknife could show the rest of the Canadian government how to reach reconciliation goals by being a leader with a clear vision.

Focus on collaborative decision-making and relationship building

Collaborative decision-making and continuing to build positive, respectful relationships with all Indigenous governments were identified as ways for the City Council to advance reconciliation. Many actions were suggested to achieve this goal.

- First, implement a Tri-Party Council of Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Métis, and the non-Indigenous representatives to govern the City.
- Second, engage in continual consultation with Indigenous leadership.
- Third, non-Indigenous leadership should aim to build trust by participating in Indigenous cultural events. Fourth, co-host the region with representation from the Yellowknives Dene First Nations, all other Indigenous groups, and the City of Yellowknife.

A few participants identified actions that undermined this goal.

- First, the language of “joint” in initiatives creates a divide, so it should be removed.
- Second, managing significant development decisions without consultation with Indigenous stakeholders such as with the proposed development of Tin Can Hill for an Aurora College campus.
- Third, proposing to build an harbour without partnering with Indigenous stakeholders. Finally, implementing an Indigenous liaison position and later terminating it. We heard that these actions weaken reconciliation relationships.

Acknowledge that the Indigenization of government is beneficial

Views expressed the importance of acknowledging changing governance structures and processes. For instance, the Tlicho government is an example of Indigenizing government. It was negotiated by the federal and territorial governments with the Tlicho Indigenous Peoples. Representatives came

together and negotiated the territory with Indigenous ways of knowing. This is one way that the region is leading the way in political development and in creating governance structures. Further, the Tlicho government is a significant entity with over 100 employees. Further, its annual budget is over 75 million and grows every year. Thus, its contributions to the economy of the City of Yellowknife are substantial. We heard that there needs to be an acknowledgement of the Tlicho government's benefits to the region in order to advance reconciliation.

Eliminate Indigenous prejudice and discrimination in the City of Yellowknife workplaces

We heard that the City of Yellowknife workplaces need to be safe spaces for Indigenous Peoples. The deconstruction of racism was identified as a top priority for reconciliation to occur. Several suggestions were made to advance this goal: (1) create more inclusive policies; (2) follow the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 57; (3) implement 150 Acts of Reconciliation for city staff; (4) provide training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism for city staff; (5) require the City of Yellowknife staff to take the Government of the Northwest Territories' Living Well Together training; (6) conduct annual reviews of workplace policies; and (7) immediately reprimand discriminatory behaviours if they occur.

Facilitate Indigenous leadership inclusion in the City of Yellowknife government

We heard that making it easier for Indigenous people to take part in local government is a top priority for reconciliation. People strongly suggest adding more Indigenous leaders to the City of Yellowknife government as a way to make Indigenous communities and cultures more visible. A handful of suggestions were made to achieve this goal.

- First, implement a program to support Indigenous Peoples to run for City Council.
- Second, explore designating Council seats for Yellowknife Dene First Nations representatives.
- Third, designate funding and positions in the City to manage Indigenous relationships and to implement reconciliation advancements.
- Lastly, focus on recruitment and retention strategies for Indigenous peoples. We heard that the City of Yellowknife is a diverse, multicultural city, and it should be represented in government leadership.

8. Health, Housing, and Poverty

Support the health, healing and wellness of Indigenous peoples

We heard that breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma was an important step in furthering reconciliation. Many recommendations were made to improve the health, healing, and wellness of Indigenous Peoples. Yellowknife needs:

1. The equitable access to basic necessities, such as warmth, food, clean water, public hygiene facilities, and housing;
2. Public forums for Indigenous Peoples to determine the needs required for healing;

3. Free programs that promote healing, such as counselling, land-based healing programs, and healing camps;
4. Long-term, well-coordinated plans and strategies for healing, wellness, addictions, homelessness, poverty, and human trafficking;
5. Provide zoning for a treatment facility;
6. Build a publicly funded health, detox and reconciliation centre;
7. Increase access to social workers and medical professionals;
8. Engage in community outreach for Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness, poverty, and addictions;
9. Focus social support services on Elders; and
10. Provide an Indigenous Safe Watch program for families and children.

Ideally, we heard that programs and services would honour Indigenous-led and culturally appropriate approaches.

Special considerations must be made for treating addictions

Many participants identified ameliorating issues of addiction as important to promoting reconciliation in Yellowknife. One participant commented that addictions have reached pandemic levels across communities. It was recommended that a publicly funded treatment centre in the City, or at least based in the Northwest Territories, with well-trained social workers and medical professionals, would be a move in the right direction for reconciliation. Also, the City of Yellowknife should pressure the Government of the Northwest Territories to act on this initiative.

End homelessness and provide equitable access to housing

Participants emphasized that reducing homelessness would help promote reconciliation and improve relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The City could help provide housing through (1) leadership, ownership, and implementation of the existing Yellowknife Homeless Plan; (2) an all-party homelessness strategy; (3) a housing first initiative; (4) community engagement with the homeless population, such as by visiting the day shelter; (5) increased access to public and affordable housing; (6) pressure on the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide shelter services for the homeless and affordable housing for low-income residents; and (7) support for zoning for and the building of a tiny home park. Participants said that strategies to end homelessness and make housing more affordable should be decolonized and made in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.

Support economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples

It was suggested that the economic system is guided by colonial capitalism. Under those conditions, Indigenous Peoples have been disadvantaged. We heard that this must be changed. Participants said that making economic opportunities better is one way to fight poverty and bring people closer together. Some ways to reach this goal are (1) hiring Indigenous people to work for the City; (2) giving space to Indigenous businesses, like giving free space to Indigenous artists; and (3) keeping up an economic development partnership with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

9. Commemoration

Create more Indigenous-led commemoration projects

Participants recommended that the City of Yellowknife can further reconciliation through Indigenous-led collaborative commemoration projects in highly visible, public locations. We heard that these actions will honour the history of residential schools, Survivors, and all the lost children. Further, we heard that commemoration projects should honour the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Indigenous cultures, languages and values that contribute to the history of Yellowknife and northern Canada. Participants suggested several commemoration projects.

- First, build a living monument, such as a reconciliation center, in the core of the city, so it can be used by residents and visitors for healing, prayer, ceremonies, celebrations, and other public gatherings.
- Second, install Indigenous artwork and monuments around the city.
- Third, install memorial benches around the waterfront, so people can connect to the land, reflect, and give thanks. Fourth, provide sitting stools made of jack pine in a sitting circle dedicated to the official languages or dedicated to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Finally, implement a reconciliation walk that acknowledges the Indigenous histories of the land that includes, for example, acknowledgement of the original families of the area, the berry picking area, the Long Lake Fishing area, and the moose habitat near the Bush Pilots Monument.

10. Yellowknife of the Future

Many participants discussed their hopes for Yellowknife in the next decade and envisioned that Yellowknife will be characterized by several major themes in the coming years. Specifically, we heard:

Reconciliation is the norm -

that reconciliation becomes a normal part of our everyday ways of living.

Caring, united and working together

that we are all one. We are doing the work of reconciliation, and we use all our different languages to work together and create a common voice with respect.

Protecting natural resources through Elders' guidance

that we are stewards of the environment during these times of climate change. We are working to save and protect our shared resources: water, land, wildlife, and clean air. Our focus is on following the Elders' teachings on making resources our priority.

Listening to and nurturing the youth

that we listen to our children and youth and encourage them to be open-minded. We focus on cultural exchanges and bringing together children and parents so they can learn from each other.

Breaking the cycle

that we have broken the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

Solutions for homelessness and addiction are in place

that private property rights do not prevent social services from being in the downtown area. Together with the Northwest Territories government, we are tackling homelessness and addiction. There is space for everybody, a homelessness solution, and comprehensive addiction therapies.

Indigenous culture is embedded into Yellowknife society

that Yellowknife is infused with Indigenous cultural practices, languages, and ways of being while retaining cultural uniqueness. Further, Dene laws are known, respected, and followed in the City, and Indigenous art, sculpture, music, and culture beautify Yellowknife.

Leaders of reconciliation

that Yellowknife sets the standard for other communities to follow. The Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Métis, and non-Indigenous people all work together in a tri-party council to manage in an atmosphere of mutual respect and peace.

Next Steps

The City of Yellowknife will review and analyze the recommended actions within each theme to determine how the City can to implement and/or advocate for them.

Closing

Reconciliation is important for the City of Yellowknife, community members, and Indigenous neighbours. The City will continue to uphold the Principles within the Reconciliation Framework and update the Reconciliation Action Plan based on the review and analysis.

Special Acknowledgements

The City of Yellowknife thanks everyone for their participating and sharing their ideas and feedback on reconciliation.

We would like to say a big mahsi cho to the following people who helped make this event possible:

Tanya Tourangeau – co-planner & report writer

Deneze Nakehk'o – co-planner & facilitator

Tree of Peace for welcoming us.

RECONCILIATION **ACTION PLAN**



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

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Introduction

Reconciliation Framework

The City of Yellowknife Reconciliation Framework is the foundation for how the City works to build respectful relationships with, and create a more inclusive representation of, Indigenous Peoples within the City of Yellowknife.

Please refer to the Reconciliation Framework for:

- Background on the City's Reconciliation journey;
- Overarching goals and principles of the City's Reconciliation initiatives; and
- How the City will engage Indigenous peoples, Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations and the community at large on the City's Reconciliation initiatives.

Structure of the Action Plan

This Action Plan supports the Reconciliation Framework. The Action Plan lays out concrete actions the City plans to take to move forward on our collective Reconciliation journey.

This Action Plan includes:

1. **Current Actions**, which the City has committed to taking, description of the work, the partners the City intends to involve, and the expected timeline;
2. **Past and Ongoing Actions**, which the City has already taken; and
3. **Possible Future Actions**, which are within the City's mandate that the City received through the "Reconciliation: Starting the Conversation" discussions and from reviewing initiatives taking place in other municipalities which might become actions the City chooses to undertake in the future.



Review and Additions

This Action Plan is a living document that will be refreshed and adapted to reflect the City's work and priority areas across our community.

This Action Plan will be reviewed and updated regularly, and will be presented to Council at a minimum of once per year.

Items will be added to the Action Plan based on ideas and feedback from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Métis Alliance, other Indigenous governments, institutions individuals and organizations, and the community at large.



ACTION PLAN

2023 ACTIONS

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS
Elders Circle	Previously referred to as 'Elder in Residence'. Elders are invited to host sessions at the Library.	Elders	Will resume in 2023 if the City is able to secure an Elder.
Speak Dene Café	Dene language speaking in an informal context with guidance from a Dene elder.	Elders	Will resume in 2023 if able to secure a teacher.
Speak Tłıchǫ	Exploring an opportunity to have Tłıchǫ lessons offered at the Yellowknife Public Library.	Elders	Will resume in 2023 if able to secure a teacher
Indigenous Songwriting Workshop	Yellowknife Public Library is exploring the opportunity to offer a songwriting workshop to youth.	YKDFN NSMA	Currently being explored.
Support YKDFN Spring Carnival	City provided a financial contribution to support the festival. Council declared Friday, March 31, 2023 as a half-day civic holiday in support of the event.	YKDFN	Held March 31- April 3, 2023. By-Law No. 5067
Stop Signs	Continue to update stop Signs to include Wiilideh language	YKDFN	As STOP signs are replaced, Wiilideh language will be included.
Canada Day event	Collaboration with YKDFN to change the tone and approach for Canada Day to recognize the legacy of residential schools and colonization in our country.	YKDFN	Collaboration between YKDFN and City.
Indigenous Cultural Safety Training for City staff	The City held annual residential school training between 2015-2019. Paused in 2020 due to COVID and now resuming	GNWT; Private contractors	Curriculum currently under development. Training to commence in Spring 2023.



ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS
Joint Economic Development Strategy	City and YKDFN developed a joint economic development strategy and adopted an implementation plan.	YKDFN	Working on implementing actions from the implementation plan.
Banners in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.	Call for artists being developed. Banners will be displayed in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.	YKDFN NSMA	Under development.
Reconciliation Round Table 2023	Host an event where the residents can discuss what reconciliation looks like in our community		Council motion 0063-21. Planning 2023 event
Cultural Burials	Develop a protocol that lays out how the City can support traditional burials at the Lakeview Cemetery	YKDFN	To be initiated in 2023
Hide Tanning Camp	Partner with YK Education District #1 to support public access to hide tanning camp (evenings)	YK #1	Anticipated to take place Spring 2023
Land Acknowledgement	Reviewing with Indigenous partners and knowledge holders to ensure a respectful and accurate acknowledgement.	YKDFN, Tlicho, NSMA	Under review.
Indigenous Visitors Guide	Release the <i>City of Yellowknife: A Visitors Guide to Local Dene Culture Around Yellowknife</i>	YKDFN	Released publicly
Indigenizing Space - Mural	Engaging with Denedeh Developments Incorporated to support a downtown mural	DDI	Under development
Indigenizing Space - Arbour	Engagement and planning to build an arbour to indigenize public space	YKDFN, Community residents	Planning and project development will continue in 2023.



2021 AND 2022 ACTIONS

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS
Yellowknife Public Library – Elders Circle in (2021)	Elders were invited to host sessions at the Library.	Elders	Completed. To resume in 2023 if able to secure an Elder.
NAKA Festival	Collaboration with YKDFN to celebrate and promote aurora borealis and related activities	YKDFN	Paused in 2021 & 2022 due to COVID.
Canada Day event and reconciliation (2021, 2022)	Collaboration with YKDFN to change the tone and approach for Canada Day to recognize the legacy of residential schools and colonization in our country.	YKDFN	Collaboration between YKDFN and City led to successful events.
Yellowknife Public Library – Speak Dene Café (2020, 2021)	Dene language speaking in an informal context is offered with guidance from a Dene elder	Elders	Will resume in 2023 if able to secure a teacher.
Stop Signs	Update stop Signs to include Wiiliideh language	YKDFN	Installation of numerous stop signs occurred. Will continue on an as and when basis.
Joint Economic Development Strategy	City and YKDFN partnered in the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI)- co-hosted by CANDO and FCM - as one of the lead cohorts for indigenous-municipal joint economic development	YKDFN	YKDFN and City 'graduated' in 2021. Joint Economic Development Plan was approved in 2021 and a joint implementation plan adopted by YKDFN and City leaders in 2022.
Indigenizing Space - Arbour	The City proposes to build an arbour to indigenize public space	YKDFN, Community residents	Planning and project development included in Budget 2021.



ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS
	Library – acquisition of artwork depicting historical residents of Latham Island		Acquired in 2022.
Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation (AIWF)	<p>Extension of the MOU with the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation for the purpose of providing interim traditional Indigenous health services (Council Motion #0128-18) as an indication of UNDRIP principles applying to land considerations.</p> <p>The City supported AIWF in its work to establish a healing camp by providing the land for the camp through an unprecedented, non-colonial process and funding.</p>	AIWF	MOU renewed in 2022, as per the wishes of the AIWF.
Traditional on-the-land camps and community hunt (2021)	Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) recommended and Council approved allocating federal Reaching Home one time COVID funding for YKDFN led programming for on-the-land healing camps and a community hunt to provide traditional/country food for Indigenous residents of the region	YKDFN; CAB	YKDFN implemented a successful on-the-land program in Spring 2021 with one time COVID funding provided through CAB.
Traditional names for lakes/landmarks (2021)	Seek to rename lakes and prominent landmarks within Yellowknife's boundary using traditional Wiiliideh names	YKDFN	YKDFN and City began this work.
Recruitment strategies	The City is seeking to attract more Indigenous persons to work at the City through its recruitment practices by prioritizing qualified Indigenous candidates		City HR Directives adopted in 2021; Implemented in 2022.
Annual Priority for Municipal Enforcement (2021)	Council set "emphasis on incorporating reconciliation with Indigenous peoples into public safety		Council Motion 0077-21



ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS
	and enforcement activities” as a key priority		
Recognition of YKDFN Peoples (2021)	Motion from the Heritage Committee, supported by Council, including a backgrounder, plaque and translation of information into Wiiliideh dialect	YKDFN	Collaboration with YKDFN commenced in 2022
Indigenous Cultural Safety Training for City staff	The City has held annual residential school training that has been mandatory for all City staff since 2015. Paused in 2020 due to COVID, options to expand the focus of training to include colonization, cultural respect/ safety are being planned, including online and in person opportunities	GNWT; Private contractors	Resources included in Budget 2022 – RFP awarded.
Visitor Information Centre (VIC)	Incorporate YKDFN content on history and culture	YKDFN	VIC opened in 2022
Aquatic Centre	Indigenous Engagement and incorporation of design elements	Clark Builders	Commenced in 2022
Reconciliation Round Table 2022	Host an event where the residents can discuss what reconciliation looks like in our community		Council motion 0063-21 – Reconciliation Gathering held on August 31, 2022.



ONGOING ACTIONS

Joint Council Meetings	Regular Joint Council meetings between the elected leaders of YKDFN and the City started in the 1990's and continue to the present day	Ongoing	Chiefs and Mayor meet regularly; schedule annual meetings with GNWT.
Urban Hide Tanning Camp	The City has support the Urban Hide Tanning Camp in downtown Yellowknife financially and through use of outdoor City space since its inception 3 years ago.	2017, 2018, 2019	Council Motion #0163-17 Council Motion #0302-18
Intercultural Heritage and Placemaking Plan	The development of the Intercultural Heritage & Placemaking Plan was a collaboration between (YKDFN and the City in order to reflect the indigenous history and cultural values in the community	Ongoing	On September 10, 2018 Council accepted for information, the Intercultural Heritage and Placemaking Plan and approved the expenditure of \$45,000 from the Heritage Committee Reserve Fund for the implementation of the Intercultural Heritage and Placemaking Plan. (Council Motion #0301-18) On April 14, 2020 Council directed Administration to implement the Intercultural Heritage and Placemaking Plan (Council Motion #0060-20)
YKDFN-City collaboration	Selected as a partnership under the First Nations-Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) to advance areas of shared interest Working, together with the North Slave Metis Alliance, to secure funding for the submarine water pipeline which brings water from	Ongoing	On July 22, 2019 Council passed a resolution confirming participation in CEDI (Council Motion #0178-19) Letters of Support provided from YKDFN and NSMA were integral to the City accessing funding under the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund for the water pipeline replacement.



	<p>upstream of Giant Mine to the City's water treatment plant which serves all</p> <p>Successfully obtaining funding under Climate Change Preparedness in the North (CCPN) to work to protect Dettah/Ndilo and Yellowknife from wildfires</p> <p>YKDFN's Chief Executive Officer and the City Administrator have regular meetings to work on issues of common interest</p> <p>Actively working to reaffirm, align and support respective lands interests as the Akaitcho negotiations towards Agreement-in-Principle proceed</p> <p>YKDFN representatives are key participants on a number of City Committees, including the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness, the Heritage Committee, the Homelessness Commission and the Capital Area Committee</p>		<p>Joint collaboration on firesmarting between City and YKDFN.</p> <p>Monthly meetings take place.</p> <p>City supports YKDFN interim land withdrawal interests.</p>
Community Boundary Revision	<p>The community boundary impacting the City and YKDFN is one part of the AIP process. The YKDFN has identified that for the purposes of community growth and land development they are</p>	Ongoing	<p>On July 22, 2019 Council resolved to apply to the GNWT for a community boundary revision jointly with YKDFN (Council Motion #0177-19)</p>



	requesting that the community boundary between the City of Yellowknife and Dettah/Ndilo be adjusted. The City of Yellowknife has been working in partnership with YKDFN to support long term growth for YKDFN while concurrently projecting Yellowknife land needs.		
North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA)	Regular meetings take place between the City and the leadership of the NSMA.	Ongoing	Meetings take place and work will soon commence on an MOU between the City and NSMA.
Sports and Recreation	City has worked in partnership with the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Western Arctic to host Traditional Games Nights at the Multiplex Indigenous programming such as Naturally Dene Workshops, has been included in recreational programming	Ongoing	Ongoing efforts to seek instructors and facilitators for Indigenous programming and events
Street & Park Naming	Outreach to YKDFN, NSMA and the Dene Nation to seek their suggestions for street and park names that honour Indigenous citizens within the City	Ongoing	Letter to William Enge, President, NSMA dated June 6, 2019 (DM#563307) Letter to YKDFN dated June 6, 2019 (DM#563309) Letter to Chief Norman Yakeleya, Dene Nation, dated June 3, 2019 (DM#563308)
Traditional Names for Lakes within Yellowknife's boundary	Outreach to YKDFN to collaborate on using traditional names for lakes		Letter to YKDFN Chiefs dated November 26, 2020 (DM#631336) – City and YKDFN Administrations are working together on this



Indigenizing Outdoor Space	Proposing that an arbour be built within Yellowknife – planning funds included in Budget 2021		Letters to YKDFN Chiefs January and April 2021 (DM#638576 and DM#645926) proposing collaboration
Street Signs	Include Wiiliideh language on Stop signs	Ongoing	40 bilingual stop signs erected in 2020; ongoing as and when stop signs are ordered/replaced. (Council Motion #0060-20)
City email signatures	Standardized email signatures	Ongoing	City staff email signatures are standardized to include: <i>I acknowledge that I reside and work in Chief Drygeese territory.</i>
Lobby to advance TRC Action #82	82. “We call upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, 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.”	YKDFN, GNWT, Dene Nation, CIRNAC	Ongoing. City is a member of the Steering Committee led by the GNWT to advance this



PAST ACTIONS

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	DETAIL
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action 43, 47, 57, 75, 76 and 77 – Council Motion #0324-15 adopted October 26, 2015	Article 43: Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Completed	Council Motion #0324-15
	Article 47: The Mayor corresponds with the GNWT to ensure that any and all laws that rely upon the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius are repudiated.	Completed	Letter sent to the Honourable Robert C. McLeod February 25, 2016 (DM#453424)
	Article 57: That funding be identified for the provision of skill-based training for all City staff to undergo that will provide a learning experience on the history of Aboriginal peoples relating to residential schools; UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Treaties and Aboriginal Rights, Indigenous Law; and, Aboriginal–Crown relations.	Completed	Budget 2016 - Council Motion #0316-16. All City Staff completed training on the History and Legacy of Residential Schools and Colonization between 2017-2019
	Articles 75, 76, and 77: The Mayor correspond with the GNWT and School Boards encouraging them to ensure that they provide any and all information pertaining to identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries/sites where residential school	Completed	Letter sent to the Honourable Robert C. McLeod February 25, 2016 (DM#453424) Letter sent to Simon Taylor, Chair Yellowknife Catholic Schools February 25, 2016 (DM# 453430) Letter sent to John Stephenson, Chair YK Education District No. 1 February 25, 2016 (DM #453428)



ACTION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	DETAIL
	children are buried, and for them to provide all known records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.		
Meeting protocols updated	Meetings commence with an acknowledgement that the City is on the shared traditional lands of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN), and recognition of the North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA)	Completed	Acknowledgement: <i>The City of Yellowknife acknowledges that we are located in Chief Drygeese territory. From time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of all other Indigenous Peoples including the North Slave Métis, and all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.</i>
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	The City and the YKDFN entered into a MOU in 2002. The MOU was revised and executed in 2019.	Completed	MOU signed by both YKDFN and City on December 5, 2019 (Council Motion #0060-20). https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/city-government/resources/Indigenous-Relations/MEMORANDUM-OF-UNDERSTANDING-BETWEEN-CITY-AND-YELLOWKNIVES-DENE-FIRST-NATION-REDUCED-PDFA.pdf
YKDFN Flag	The YKDFN flag flies next to the Canadian, NWT and City of Yellowknife flag in front of City Hall year round.	Completed	Flags and Proclamations Policy adopted on January 11, 2021 (Council Motion #0005-21) – YKDFN flag is displayed permanently.
Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation (AIWF)	The City supported AIWF in its work to establish a healing camp by providing the land for the camp through an unprecedented, non-colonial process and funding.	Completed	October 15, 2019 Council approved \$50,000 to extend hours of healing camp and transportation to camp (Council Motion#0219-19) April 30, 2018 Council directed SAO to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation for the purpose of providing interim



ACTION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	DETAIL
			traditional Indigenous health services (Council Motion #0128-18) as an indication of UNDRIP principles applying to land considerations.
Indigenous Relations Advisor	City received funding through Urban Programming for Indigenous Persons (UPIP) to hire a term Indigenous Relations Advisor to facilitate the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan across all City departments	Completed	Indigenous Relations Advisor was hired for 18 month term in 2018.
“Strong People; Strong Communities” (2021)	Support - \$ and in kind - to mural project where NWT artists work with youth to create 5 murals. For permanent installation around YK	Completed	Project completed in 2021, 7 new murals in Yellowknife, 2 on City owned buildings by Mahalia Newmark, Kalina Newmark and team
Traditional on-the-land camps and community hunt (2021)	Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) recommended and Council approved allocating federal Reaching Home one time COVID funding for YKDFN led programming for on-the-land healing camps and a community hunt to provide traditional/country food for Indigenous residents of the region	Completed	YKDFN implemented a successful on the land program in Spring 2021



Potential Future Actions

The City is planning for a number of future actions, including many that result from our close working relationship with YKDFN. In addition, we seek ongoing ideas and recommendations on actions that can advance reconciliation. Some of the activities that the City is considering in the future include the following. What else can we do?

ACTION	DESCRIPTION
Annual gathering on reconciliation	Coordinate an annual public event, to encourage dialogue on reconciliation within Yellowknife, with the support of external facilitator(s)
MOU annual Work Plan	Work with the YKDFN to plan annual priorities to focus on under the framework of our MOU
Highlight Indigenous Languages where possible	Incorporate indigenous language into more signage, festivals and events
MOU with NSMA	Develop an MOU that outlines our mutual respect and working relationship
Community Blanket Exercise	Opportunity for residents to seek to understand the impact of colonization and residential schools on Indigenous Peoples
Implementation of the Joint Economic Development Strategy - JEDS (YKDFN & City)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint lobbying effort to establish Indigenous culture training and certification• Create an innovative visitor experience to highlight Chief Drygeese territory and YKDFN culture• Collaborate with YKDFN on recommendations to GNWT to rebrand the Yellowknife Airport arrival and departure displays to reflect Chief Drygeese territory.• Friendship Festival - YKDFN and City planning this together





CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: Governance and Priorities / Council

DATE: April 11, 2023

DEPARTMENT: Administration

ISSUE: Whether to appoint members to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint members to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a two-year term commencing April 12, 2023, and ending April 11, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

On August 23, 2021 Council adopted the Accessibility Policy pursuant to Motion #0134-21. As part of that motion, Council also directed Administration to “create an Accessibility Advisory Committee” and “to engage key stakeholders and the public to refine the Draft Accessibility Policy.”

On October 4, 2021 Council accepted for information a Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the AAC is to provide policy recommendations, expertise and experiential knowledge to Council on accessibility issues with the aim of making City of Yellowknife programs, services, infrastructure and facilities more accessible for all by:

- (i) Identifying barriers for persons with disabilities created by current City of Yellowknife infrastructure;
- (ii) Making recommendations as to how to remove these barriers;
- (iii) Establishing criteria by which barrier removal can be prioritized and the allocating of funding can be determined; and
- (iv) Working with the City of Yellowknife to draft policies and procedures to prevent the creation of barriers in the future.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will be an invaluable resource to Administration as the City continues to move towards a more equitable and inclusive city.

The Committee will be comprised of up to seven (7) members of the public that reflect a diversity of the types of accessibility issues faced by members of the community. Membership will be limited to people with lived experience or accessibility challenges and may also include individuals representing a broad range of under-served and equity seeking groups such as, but not limited to:

- i. Indigenous peoples;
- ii. Faith based groups;
- iii. LGBTQ2S+;
- iv. Newcomers, new Canadians;
- v. Persons living in poverty;
- vi. Racialized people, people of diverse ethnic or cultural origin;
- vii. Seniors;
- viii. Women;

It is the practice of the City of Yellowknife to advertise all vacancies for boards and committees. The City has advertised the vacancies on the Accessibility Advisory Committee since the committee was established in 2021 in the Capital Update, the City's website and social media sites. The City also sent over forty letters to community groups to advise of the AAC and fill the membership. The City will continue to advertise the remaining vacant positions.

COUNCIL POLICY / RESOLUTION OR GOAL:	
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Council Goal #2	Delivering efficient and accountable government.
Council Goal #3	Ensuring a high quality of life for all, including future generations.
Council Goal #4	Driving strategic land development and growth opportunities.
Council Motion #0245-18	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopt for information the Accessibility Audit as prepared by SPH Planning and Consulting and Dillon Consulting;2. Direct Administration to develop an implementation plan in consultation with key stakeholder groups to address the identified projects; and3. Direct Administration to identify key projects through the budgeting process.
Council Motion #0187-19	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Endorse the draft Accessibility Audit Implementation Strategy; and2. Direct Administration to engage with the public and key stakeholders to review and provide input on the Implementation schedule.
Council Motion #0134-21:	<p>That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Endorse the proposed Draft Accessibility Policy;

2. Direct Administration to create an Accessibility Advisory Committee; and
3. Direct Administration to engage key stakeholders and the public to refine the Draft Accessibility Policy.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, BY-LAWS, STUDIES, PLANS:

1. Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended; and
2. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*.
3. *Accessibility Audit*;
4. *Accessibility Policy*; and
5. *Accessibility Audit Implementation Strategy*.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Legislation

Section 122 of Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended, states:

Special Committees of Council

122. Where Council deems it necessary to establish a special committee to investigate and consider any matter, Council shall:
- (1) name the committee;
 - (2) establish terms of reference;
 - (3) appoint members to it;
 - (4) establish the term of appointment of members;
 - (5) establish requirements for reporting to Council or a standing committee; and
 - (6) allocate any necessary budget or other resources to it.

Procedural Considerations

All appointments to Special Committees must be approved by Council.

The composition of the Committee was structured so that reflect a diversity of the types of accessibility issues faced by members of the community.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:

That the City re-advertise vacancies.

RATIONALE:

The AAC will provide advice to the City on identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives, and facilities. Administration will work with members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive engagement strategy that ensures persons with disabilities are provided with a variety of ways and opportunities to provide feedback to the City in accordance with the Accessibility Policy.

Appointing a full complement of Members will ensure that the work of the committee is completed in a timely fashion.

ATTACHMENTS:

Expressions of interest.

Prepared: March 27, 2023; SJ



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: Governance and Priorities / Council

DATE: April 11, 2023

DEPARTMENT: Administration

ISSUE: Whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint a representative from non-government Health organizations (including hospitals and other public institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addictions) to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) for a two-year term commencing April 12, 2023, and ending April 11, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

There is a vacancy on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness for a representative from non-government Health organizations (including hospitals and other public institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addictions).

It is the practice of the City of Yellowknife to advertise all vacancies for boards and committees. The City has advertised a vacancy on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness in the Capital Update, the City's website and social media sites.

COUNCIL POLICY / RESOLUTION OR GOAL:

Council Goal #2 Delivering efficient and accountable government.

Motion #0459-96, as amended by #0460-96, #0462-96 and #0273-09:

"The following policy be adopted with respect to appointments to municipal boards and committees:

- i) The maximum consecutive years that an individual may serve on any one board or committee is six.
- ii) Individuals who have served the maximum six-year period on one municipal board or committee shall be eligible to be appointed to another board or committee.

- iii) No individual shall be precluded from serving concurrent terms on more than one municipal board or committee.
- iv) Notwithstanding that an individual appointee has served less than six years on a particular board or committee, Council may, after the expiration of the first or subsequent terms of that appointee, advertise for applicants to fill a vacancy on that board or committee.
- v) Notwithstanding clause (i.) of this policy, should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, the six year maximum limitation may, at the discretion of City Council, be waived.
- vi) Should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, City Council may appoint a member of the public at their discretion.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, BY-LAWS, STUDIES, PLANS:

Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Legislation

Section 122 of Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended, states:

Special Committees of Council

122. Where Council deems it necessary to establish a special committee to investigate and consider any matter, Council shall:

- (1) name the committee;
- (2) establish terms of reference;
- (3) appoint members to it;
- (4) establish the term of appointment of members;
- (5) establish requirements for reporting to Council or a standing committee; and
- (6) allocate any necessary budget or other resources to it.

Procedural Considerations

All appointments to Special Committees must be approved by Council.

The composition of the Committee was structured so that various segments of the community are represented.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:

That the City re-advertise vacancies for the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

RATIONALE:

The Committee members will assist the City in an advisory capacity regarding homelessness issues within the municipal boundaries of the City of Yellowknife. Appointing a full complement of Members will ensure that the work of the committee is completed in a timely fashion.

ATTACHMENTS:

Expressions of interest.

Prepared: March 27, 2023; SJ