



FURTHERING A COLLABORATIVE PATH WITH URBAN INDIGENOUS RESIDENTS

April 30, 2025

- This report responds to the Motion approved by Council at its July 12, 2024 meeting seeking information on the progress of Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy (UIS), best practices of municipalities to implement Truth and Reconciliation, and the legislative responsibilities that shape this work
- Members of Indigenous community organizations have articulated through various requests and presentations the need for accelerated progress in the methods and processes to achieve the goals of the UIS



Progress to Date ~ Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy Implementation Plan

Land Themed Actions

- Raise awareness, strengthen role of Indigenous Advisory Committee
- Improve meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities on projects, plans, approvals
- Include and listen to Elders on key initiatives
- Include Indigenous voices in environmental leadership, incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into practises
- Work with Indigenous communities to provide education to staff, residents about acknowledging traditional and treaty territories in Hamilton



Progress to Date ~ Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy Implementation Plan

Spirit Themed Actions

- Incorporate more Indigenous stories & voices into the City's culture & heritage plans
- Restore Indigenous names & identify significant Indigenous landmarks in Hamilton
- Keep improving work with First Nations in conducting archaeology; identify how to educate the public on Hamilton's rich archaeological history
- Expand the promotion and celebration of Indigenous History Month at City Hall and across Hamilton



Landmarks and Monuments PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



Progress to Date ~ Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy Implementation Plan

People Themed Actions

- Offer public education about Indigenous peoples' history & current topics that contribute to reconciliation
- Enable City staff to deliver City services in a culturally appropriate way
- Identify & eliminate barriers preventing Indigenous people from carrying out ceremonial practises in public spaces
- Educate all City staff about Indigenous people, Indigenous-settler history, treaties, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Ensure Public Health programs respect Indigenous medicines & healing practices



- Reconciliation is everyone's work
- Nation-to-Government relationship with Nations
- As a corporate strategy, including the UIS actions, and TRC Calls to Action in divisional workplans and Performance Accountability & Development plans
- Meaningful consultation and engagement with Urban Indigenous residents and First Nations communities on municipal projects, plans, and approvals can be accomplished with early and direct involvement and availability of capacity dollars



Municipal scan of Truth and Reconciliation best practices as of December 2024 - SUCCESSES

- Creating a consistent approach to meeting the requirements of Duty to Consult, so that there is consistency between all departments who consult
- Ensuring that the perspectives of Indigenous people are reflected in the stories, historical markers, and place names around the cities
- Establishing a new alternative approach for Indigenous people in terms of health, prevention, and well-being
- Creating a Task Force specifically focused on implementing the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Hiring employees specifically tasked to work on Memorandums Of Understanding with surrounding First Nations as well as establishing municipal service agreements with emergency services on First Nations.

Municipal scan of Truth and Reconciliation best practices as of December 2024 - CHALLENGES

- Decision-making/complex structures
- Lack of a land-base or gathering space where the urban Indigenous community and Indigenous people overall feel that they can use and feel culturally safe in
- Funding; a lot of work being done by Indigenous Relations offices can be highly dynamic, and touch on the work of many other departments
- Not having an overarching strategy specifically for Indigenous-related and reconciliation work
- Insufficient capacity of the Indigenous Relations team to address requests from other departments and carryout work with the communities
- More public education on issues surrounding Indigenous people, especially to counter misinformation and general ignorance. Reconciliation will always be limited in Canada unless the majority of non-Indigenous people support it.



Hamilton

THANK YOU