



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

---

From: Carrie Beatty, Director, Strategic Communications

---

Date: January 17, 2022

---

Report No: ES-001-21

---

Subject: Indigenous Relations Update - Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

**Recommendation:** THAT Council endorse the Truth and Reconciliation report and Calls to Action;

THAT Council endorse the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), a comprehensive statement addressing the human rights of Indigenous peoples;

THAT the Town of Milton continue to recognize the territorial lands through the land acknowledgement that pays respect to to ancestral and traditional territories, our collective role as stewards of the land, and builds awareness of present-day First Nation, Metis and Inuit culture in our community;

THAT the Town of Milton continue to implement the Culture Plan that includes 13 actions supporting Indigenous cultural resurgence in Milton;

And THAT the Town of Milton continue its reconciliation efforts through a commitment to learning more about Indigenous narrative, history, and rights, as well as building reciprocal relationships with our Indigenous peoples.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Town of Milton is committed to working towards reconciliation.
- Building genuine and authentic relationships with our First Nation, Inuit and Metis peoples and communities is core to a path of reconciliation.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in 2008 to facilitate reconciliation among former residential school students, their families, and

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

communities, through documenting the history and lasting impacts of the residential school system.

- In June 2015, the TRC issued their findings including 94 “calls to action” for reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples.
- Of those 94 Calls to Action, eight are addressed to all levels of government, and five that refer to municipal governments specifically.
- The Town has undertaken a number of activities to date to listen, learn, and support Indigenous cultural resurgence in Milton, many of which action the TRC Calls to Action.
- A summary of activities is outlined in the report to support the Calls to Action within the municipal jurisdiction.
- The Town is committed to learning more about Indigenous narrative, history, and rights, as well as building reciprocal relationships with our Indigenous peoples. It is a continuous journey towards reconciliation.

## REPORT

### Background

The Town of Milton is committed to working towards reconciliation. In 2021, the Town undertook a number of activities as opportunities to work towards reconciliation, to further strengthen the Town’s relationship with our Indigenous community, and to support Indigenous cultural resurgence in Milton. These activities included:

- Adoption of a traditional land acknowledgement to recognize the traditional lands to which Milton resides, and the shared responsibility as stewards of the land with our Treaty holders the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Council and staff Indigenous cultural competency education and training
- Milton’s first Culture Plan adopted that includes 13 action items to support Indigenous cultural resurgence in Milton
- Relationship building with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as well as Indigenous groups or organizations (e.g., Grandmothers Voice), and neighbouring First Nations
- Development of Indigenous Relations Guidelines to support staff in opening dialogue, identifying opportunities for meaningful partnership, collaboration, engagement, and input on Town initiatives
- Continued progress on the development of an Indigenous consultation and engagement framework to guide staff specific to our land use and infrastructure planning
- Town staff have met with Grandmother’s Voice to learn about the development of the Urban Indigenous Centre of Excellence at Country Heritage Park in Milton. Staff look forward to the opportunities to support this important initiative.

## Background

On Sept. 13, 2021, Council passed a resolution supporting the annual recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30, ensuring Milton commemorates the tragic history and legacy of residential schools as a vital component of the reconciliation process. In addition, the resolution contained a number of directives to work towards reconciliation, and as a commitment to further strengthening the Town's relationship with our Indigenous community.

One of the items directed Town staff to review the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action by the municipal government, stating "...AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff review the eight recommendations by the TRC pertaining to municipal responsibilities and report back to Council by January 31, 2022, with a proposed call to action, where appropriate."

## Discussion

### About the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in 2008 to facilitate reconciliation among former residential school students, their families, and communities, through documenting the history and lasting impacts of the residential school system. In June 2015, the TRC issued their findings including 94 "calls to action" for reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous Peoples.

### Calls to Action

Of those 94 Calls to Action, eight are addressed to all levels of government and five refer to municipal governments specifically.

Eight TRC calls to action that are addressed to all levels of government:

- **#3** We call upon all levels of government to fully implement [Jordan's Principle](#).
- **#17** We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers.
- **#23** We call upon all levels of government to
  - i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.
  - ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.
  - iii. Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals.
- **#40** We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

## Discussion

- **#55** We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation (note, a full list of reports or data is provided within the full [TRC of Canada: Calls to Action](#) report).
- **#64** We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders.
- **#87** We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.
- **#88** We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

Five Calls to Action from the TRC that specifically refer to municipal governments:

- **# 43** We call upon federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the framework for reconciliation.
- **# 47** We call upon federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous Peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.
- **# 57** We call upon federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the UNDRIP, treaties and aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skill-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and antiracism.
- **#75** We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance commemoration and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.
- **#77** We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential

## Discussion

school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

### Additional activities

Further to the activities listed in the background section, the Town has undertaken additional actions since Sept. 30, 2021, that are worth noting as they relate to supporting the Calls to Action within the TRC report:

- Milton Council and over 100 Town staff completed Indigenous relations training provided by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
- On behalf of Council, Mayor Krantz sent a letter to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, Government of Ontario; the Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges & Universities, Government of Ontario; Curtis Ennis, Director of Education, Halton District School Board; and Pat Daly, Director of Education, Halton Catholic District School Board, requesting that they work together to develop and implement a mandatory discussion about Indigenous history in Canada as part of all future studies about Canadian history at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels of education provincially.
- The Town hosted a community education session on Nov. 4, 2021, in partnership with the Milton Historical Society. The session was provided by Darin Wybenga, Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The session aimed to share knowledge of our local Indigenous history, treaty rights and relationships.
- The Town conducted a digital communications campaign promoting Treaties Recognition Week.
- A Consultation session occurred in November with our Indigenous community for the location and design of an orange crosswalk, for installation in the spring, to commemorate all Indigenous children, and recognize and support our local Indigenous community. Another session will occur early in 2022.

## Discussion

### Summary and Recommendations

The Town is committed to learning more about Indigenous narrative, history, and rights, as well as building reciprocal relationships with our Indigenous Peoples. It is a continuous journey towards reconciliation.

As mentioned above, in addition to the eight Calls to Action for all levels of government, there are the five Calls to Action that refer to municipalities specifically. It is important to note in the municipal context that The Town of Milton is a part of a two-tier municipality with Halton Region. In a two-tier municipality there are shared and unique jurisdictional responsibilities.

Therefore, as a result of these considerations, and actions undertaken to date, staff are recommending the following to address the Calls to Action within the municipal jurisdiction. Staff recommend:

- Council endorse the [TRC report and Calls to Action](#)
- Council endorse the [United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) that is a comprehensive statement addressing the human rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Council and staff continue to recognize the territorial lands through the land acknowledgement that pays respect to to ancestral and traditional territories, our collective role as stewards of the land, and builds awareness of present-day First Nation, Metis and Inuit culture in our community
- Staff continue to implement the [Culture Plan](#) that contains three goals, with 13 action items, supporting Indigenous cultural resurgence. This includes creating meaningful spaces for us to learn about Indigenous history, culture and the impacts of colonialism to define a reconciled future. The goals include:
  1. Build relationships with local urban Indigenous organizations and nearby Indigenous communities. For example: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
  2. Ensure Indigenous voices and histories are visible, acknowledged and integrated within the Town's cultural planning efforts, the Town's story and sense of place
  3. Promote education in Milton about truth and reconciliation through partnerships, programming and collaboration
- Annual recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30, ensuring Milton commemorates the tragic history and legacy of residential schools as a vital component of the reconciliation process
- Host an annual public presentation, on or around Sept. 30, for the benefit of all Milton residents and businesses, by a recognized First Nations historian about Indigenous life, culture, and history
- Continue to build relationships with our Indigenous community, through listening and learning



These efforts will contribute to the Town's continued journey towards reconciliation, while addressing the Calls to Action.

#### Financial Impact

Activities that will be executed as part of this report can be accommodated through existing resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Beatty  
Director, Strategic Communications

For questions, please contact: Carrie Beatty

Phone: Ext. 2110

#### Attachments

n/a

CAO Approval  
Kristene Scott  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

#### Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.