

# Exploring Park Board's Colonial Roots and Current Practices

Park Board Committee Meeting Monday, July 23, 2018



#### Purpose of Presentation

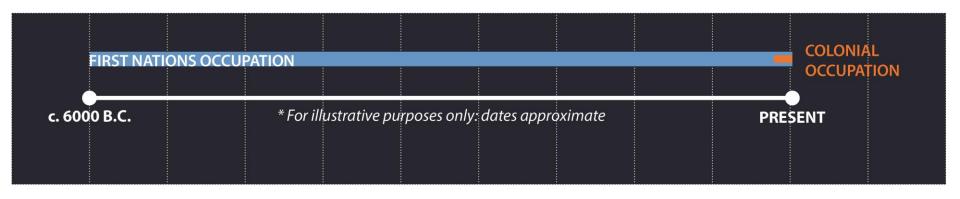


 To report back on the Board April 2018 Board motion titled "Truth and Reconciliation with the Park Board's Colonial Roots" with initial findings;

 To provide recommended next steps for furthering the "truthtelling" phase of Truth and Reconciliation.



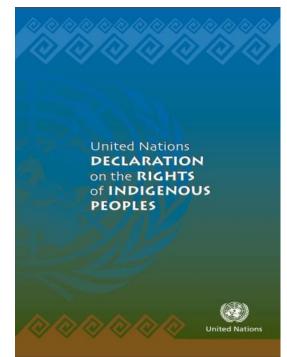
## Human Occupation in what is now known as Vancouver

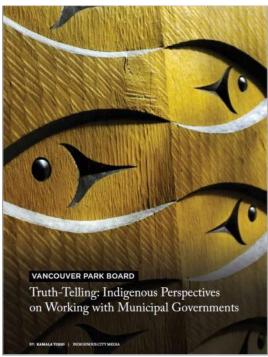


#### Background: Key Drivers for Colonial Analysis



- Unceded Territory
- Commissioners met with Musqueam, Squamish, & Tsleil-Waututh at Musqueam Cultural Centre in Jan 2015;
- Board approved 11
   Reconciliation Strategies & UNDRIP Adopted as a framework in Jan 2016;
- Aboriginal Consultation: Truth-telling phase Report received by the Board April 2018





#### Major Areas of Colonial Impact\*



- Dispossession
- Archaeology
- Culture
- Prioritization of non-Indigenous Ways of Knowing

<sup>\*</sup>non-exhaustive list

## Dispossession



#### Dispossession





Second Beach, c. 191-?

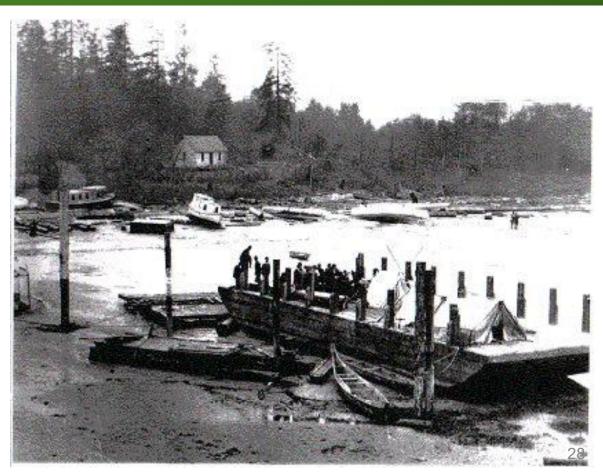
- 1899 Park Board attempts to rid park of "Indian buildings at the Narrow"
- 1909 Campaign to get rid of "squatters"
- 1952 Final residence removed

#### Dispossession



Squamish people being sent away from their homes at Senákw / səna?qw

c. 1913



#### Beaches





- 1904 Acquisition of beach property at English Bay
- 1905 Motion requiring the "Jericho Reserve" [possibly Seňákw / seňa?qw, or Locarno] for park purposes

English Bay, 1946

## Archaeology



#### Archaeology



Digging through midden to build a road through Stanley Park



## Culture



#### Culture - Events



By holding the authority over event permitting, Park Board acts as a gatekeeper of cultural expressions in parks and facilities



#### Culture - Activities





Kitsilano Pool, 1933

- Park Board is responsible for building facilities and amenities geared for particular activities
- Those activities serve many members of the community
- They do not necessarily reflect the cultural practice and sports of marginalized communities

#### Culture – Monuments and Memorials



The collection of monuments and memorials accepted as donations in public park space speak to what the Park Board deems appropriate to venerate or uphold.



Lord Stanley statue in Stanley Park 35



Prioritizing non-Indigenous Ways of Knowing

#### Prioritizing non-Indigenous Ways of Knowing





- Use of non-Indigenous internal & external expertise to guide stewardship
- Aesthetic alterations to landscape based on Western European ideals

### Conclusion

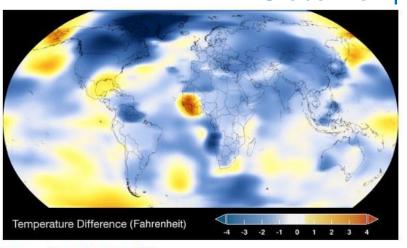


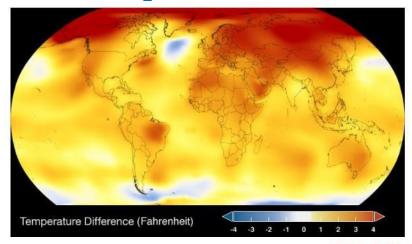
#### Why a Colonial Audit



Increased imperative to responsibly steward the land because of climate change, population increase, unabated development, increased economic disparity.

#### Global Temperature Change





▶ 1884 **○** 

2017

#### Why a Colonial Audit



First Nations successfully stewarded the land for millennia, with an embedded worldview that prioritizes long-term planning & human/environment interdependency

Lyra Soutar harvesting cedar bark June 2018



#### Why a Colonial Audit





- A paradigm shift in our approach to stewardship is the most prudent course of action for a more resilient city
- A study of how the Park Board's worldview has affected the land and Indigenous peoples will help build stronger relationships with local First Nations and provide opportunities for new models of stewardship and equity

#### Recommendation



- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation receive and acknowledge the Initial Findings for a Park Board Colonial Audit, attached as Appendix A; and,
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to undertake a comprehensive "Colonial Audit" in order to identify both short term and long term opportunities and specific ways to improve Park Board policies and practices with regard to Reconciliation.

#### Recommendation - Amended



- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation receive and acknowledge the Initial Findings for a Park Board Colonial Audit, attached as Appendix A;
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to undertake a comprehensive "Colonial Audit" in order to identify both short term and long term opportunities and specific ways to improve Park Board policies and practices with regard to Reconciliation; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Board seek an opportunity to formally acknowledge and apologize to representatives of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples for the colonial history and actions of the Vancouver Park Board.



