



PARK BOARD RECONCILIATION STRATEGIES

Update

Regular Park Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2024





RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.



LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



This presentation highlights the successes, milestones and achievements made to advance the Park Board's 11 Reconciliation Strategies since the last update to the Board in 2018 and lays out a process to develop a continuing action plan.



Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Calls to Action

In response to the Calls to Action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to:

ADOPT the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" as a reference framework for Park Board's Reconciliation initiatives;

WORK with First Nations people's and other civic bodies to identify, create, and deliver appropriate and actionable staff training on indigenous issues and Reconciliation;

TAKE a 360 degree approach to programming, including in the areas of culture, health, public dialogue, physical activity, and sport in order to increase public knowledge and awareness of Reconciliation and to provide support to indigenous peoples including children, youth, Elders and families;

CONTINUE Park Board's precedent-setting intergovernmental approach to the future stewardship of Stanley Park and other relevant lands;

REVIEW the donation of monuments, memorials, and public art processes and policies to ensure integration of Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices;

REVIEW archeological protocols to ensure that "Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site" or soil disturbance of a midden site takes place on park lands;

ACKNOWLEDGE that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights; that preservation, revitalization and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities;

REVIEW partner and business contracts, relationships and procurement policies for alignment with TRC Calls to Action;

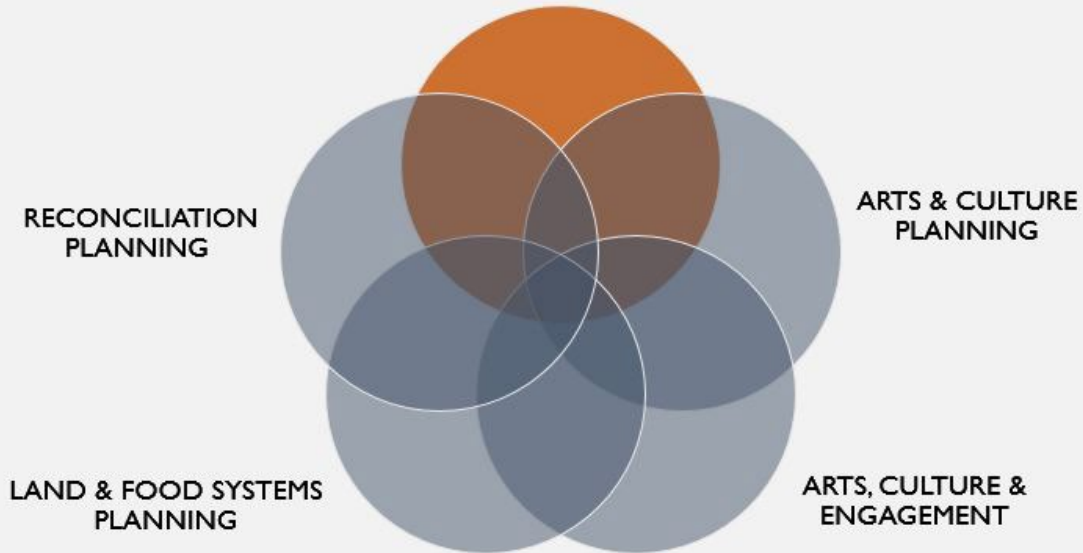
ESTABLISH and fund as a priority a program for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative community-engaged projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process;

REVIEW event permitting and sports hosting opportunities to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected and that, if appropriate to the scale of the event, that local Indigenous communities are engaged;

MAINTAIN current policy of no charge for changing a name on the OneCard, especially in relation to Indigenous people reclaiming names changed by the residential school system.



II RECONCILIATION STRATEGIES



Park Board Reconciliation Background

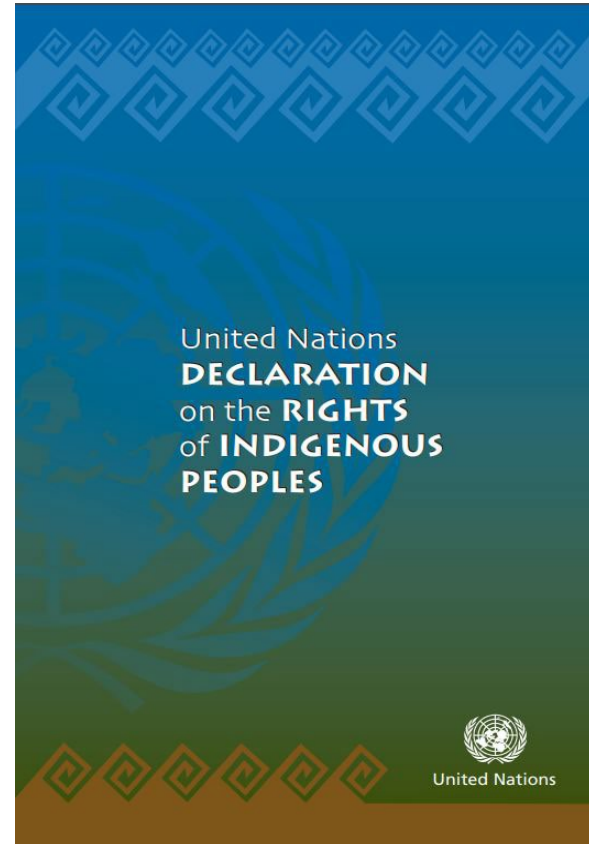
- **January 11, 2016** – Park Board adopts the 11 Reconciliation Strategies
- **April 16, 2018** – Park Board adopts the Reconciliation Mission, Vision & Values
- **July 23, 2018** - Board approves recommendations for staff to undertake a comprehensive Colonial Audit
- **May 25, 2020** – Replicable Model for Decolonization Report / Board directs staff to develop a Decolonization Strategy
- **October 2020** – Park Board approves VanPlay
- **November 15, 2021** – Park Board approves the Local Food Systems Action Plan
- **November 29, 2021** – Staff present the Colonial Audit: Interim Progress Report
- **January 24, 2022** – Park Board approves motion directing staff to explore opportunities for co-management with MST
- **October 25, 2023** – City Council adopts the COV UNDRIP Strategy

Park Board Reconciliation Strategies

- A. UN Declaration (UNDRIP)
- B. Staff Training
- C. Programming
- D. Intergovernmental Relations
- E. Public Art, Monuments, Memorials
- F. Archaeology
- G. Language Sovereignty
- H. Partners and Contractors
- I. Collaborative Art Fund
- J. Event Permitting
- K. Name Change Policy

A. UN Declaration (UNDRIP)

UNDRIP has been the foundation for all Reconciliation initiatives undertaken by the Park Board since 2016, as well as the guiding document for reviewing and assessing decisions affecting Indigenous people in the City.



B. Staff Training

- The report highlights 12 types of training
- Some data exists, but is not consistent
- Recreation Staff Survey (2023)
 - 74 Recreation staff from all levels
 - 61% had completed the *Impacts of Residential Schools with Brad Marsden* training (Majority were supervisors and the minority were programmers/Aquatic Leaders)
 - 47% had completed the *Cultural Competency: Reconciliation and Indigenous Peoples* training.
 - Only 22% of staff surveyed felt adequately prepared/resourced/equipped to deliver programs targeting Indigenous persons
 - Only 24% of surveyed staff said they are *fully aware* of Park Board's 11 Reconciliation Strategies.



Stanley Park Tour by Archaeologist, Geordie Howe, 2019
 – Photo Credit Rena Soutar

C. Programming



Artist Jordan Galli, Mt. Pleasant CC, Neighbourhood Matching Fund, 2021



Wild Salmon Caravan in Strathcona Park, 2020



Every Child Matters and Survivors' flags in Morton Park, 2023



Art in the Park Finale, Andy Livingstone Park, 2021



Local Food Systems Actions Plan, 2021



Spakwus Siolem Eagle Song Dancers, s̓əθəq̓lxenəm ts'əxwts'áxwí7, 2023

D. Intergovernmental Relations

- The Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group (SPIGWG), consisting of MST and Park Board representation, has been meeting regularly since 2015
 - Inventory & Analysis update coming to the Board in Q3
- MST Flag Raising at Brockton Point in June 2023
- The Board passed a motion to explore opportunities for co-management with MST in Jan 2022



MST Flag Raising Event at spaᓁəyəq Pápiyēk (Brockton Point), 2023

F. Archaeology

- Vancouver was the first municipality (Park Board) to hire an archaeologist to focus on Indigenous archaeology in 2016
- Park Board Archaeology works closely with MST who now have their own archeologists on staff
- The Vancouver Park Board Archaeologist and the work processes developed serve as a model for other municipalities and other archaeologists working with local Indigenous Nations in other regions



G. Language Sovereignty

- Naming of sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 (Rainbow) Park
- Language and Culture Working Group
- Siwash Rock name restoration



Banners at sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7

H. Partners and Contractors

- Updating community land use agreements such as community gardens, fieldhouse residencies, etc.
- The Park Board is aligning with the City of Vancouver's procurement team in the development of a Social Procurement Framework.
- The Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan is developing guidelines to notify MST affiliated contractors of invitations to bid for work in Stanley Park.



I. Collaborative Art Fund

- A Frame Cultural Residency in Stanley Park
- Arts & Health
- Arts Partnerships supporting Indigenous artists and collaborators
- Supporting Unique Projects



Artist in Residence T'uy't'ananat Cease Wyss
Stanley Park Plant Walk

J. Event Permitting

- Special Events and Permitting instituted a list of requirements for large-scale events held in Stanley Park designed to ensure opportunities for MST communities to participate meaningfully and assert their territory.
- Indigenous events are supported through cross-departmental collaboration to ensure cultural sensitivity
- DAC Staff have been assisting with event permitting and production support for Indigenous groups wanting to access parks space



Source: City of Vancouver

K. Name Change Policy

Policy already in place – no further action required at this time.



Source: City of Vancouver

The continuing action plan will be fully developed in the next phase of this reconciliation journey complete with financial considerations. Once completed, this plan will be presented to the Board for approval.

Financial implications are being considered by every City department as part of the COV UNDRIP implementation plan that is currently underway.



Continuing Action Plan



