

Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee

Meeting No.	18	Contact	Jonathan Canchela, Committee Secretary
Meeting Date	Monday, June 13, 2022	Phone	416-338-5089
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	aaac@toronto.ca
Location	Video Conference		

AA18.6	ACTION	Amended		Ward: All
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Potential to Review a Voluntary Property Tax Contribution to Support Reconciliation and Justice

Committee Decision

The Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to, as part of the 2023 budget process, develop a dedicated source of revenue to fully implement the Reconciliation Action Plan and present any recommendations to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee in 2023.

Origin

(May 18, 2022) Letter from Councillor Mike Layton

Summary

At its meeting on June 13, 2022, Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee considered Item [AA18.6](#) and made a recommendation to City Council.

Summary from the Letter from Councillor Mike Layton:

The City of Toronto's reconciliation efforts between non-Indigenous Torontonians and Indigenous communities in Toronto continues with the recent release of the Reconciliation Action Plan.

There is a program that originated in Victoria, B.C., which provides homeowners with the opportunity to tangibly, directly, and meaningfully participate in Toronto's reconciliation efforts through a voluntary financial contribution.

The City and its residents economically benefit from the enduring process of colonialism, and the voluntary financial contribution is a method that can help undo the colonial process that allows the City to profit from operating on stolen Indigenous territory.

For homeowners to make this contribution, they can decide to add a certain percentage (in Victoria, homeowners can add between five and 10 percent) to their annual property tax bill. The City will then delegate these contributions to Indigenous communities, along with Indigenous-led organizations, projects, and programming confronting social ills, such as inaccessibility to affordable housing, afflicting Indigenous communities. This action can help ensure that City Council will not redirect these contributions.

The voluntary financial contribution is a symbolic and collective action that can provide Toronto's Indigenous communities with additional resources. It could be a meaningful step toward reconciliation, and provide financial means to make reconciliation possible.

Background Information

(May 18, 2022) Letter from Councillor Mike Layton on Potential to Review a Voluntary Property Tax Contribution to support Reconciliation and Justice
(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/aa/bgrd/backgroundfile-226566.pdf>)

Communications

(June 13, 2022) Letter from Miguel Avila-Velarde (AA.New)

Speakers

Tiffany Malley

Miguel Avila-Velarde