

Actions Taken by City of Toronto Agencies and Corporations

Background

City Council directed the Boards of City Service Agencies to adopt the values and principles set out on April 7, 2022 (Decision 11), to guide their Reconciliation efforts. Details of Reconciliation efforts for and with Indigenous People and organizations by City Services Agencies were to be submitted to the Indigenous Affairs Office and reported to City Council on a bi-annual basis.

Summary of Service Agency Report Backs

Toronto Atmospheric Fund

Details of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund's Reconciliation efforts include actions to develop relationships, engage with community, advance learning, and enhance its visibility to increase Indigenous opportunity. Specific efforts include:

- Engagement with Six Nations to construct a workforce development strategy, and support and co-fund green building retrofits.
- Provided financial support for the Indigenous Clean Energy grant and engaged with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation leadership.
- Developed an Indigenous Reconciliation Strategy to be more deliberate in actions, adding training for Indigenous recruitment and retention, Indigenous awareness, best-practices for language use, and economic Reconciliation.
- Formalized a strategy to increase awareness that the Toronto Atmospheric Fund is actively seeking partnerships for Indigenous climate action.
- Added a Land Acknowledgement to all public documents.

CreateTO

CreateTO reports its Reconciliation efforts through active partnerships, Indigenous-focused projects, relationship-building initiatives, outreach, and the development of an Indigenous strategy. It has:

- Established partnerships with local Indigenous organizations, including Anishinaabe Health Toronto, 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, ENAGB, Aboriginal Legal Services, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Native Women's Resource Centre, and the Toronto and York Region Métis Council to support business and real estate needs. CreateTO has committed to integrating Indigenous voices into its work by centering projects around Indigenous communities. Five of these projects involve engaging local Indigenous communities, hosting Indigenous Sharing Circles, and partnering with MinoKamik to lead and design spaces that celebrate Indigenous Peoples.
- Incorporated Indigenous perspectives through collaboration with an Indigenous architectural firm and housing provider.

- Hosted Market Sounding Sessions to seek input from other Indigenous housing providers and promote inclusion.

In its relationship-building efforts, CreateTO engages with Indigenous organizations, governments, and communities, and participates in committees that advance Reconciliation. Furthermore, all CreateTO staff have committed to completing a full-day Indigenous awareness training facilitated by Nbisiing Consulting.

Sankofa Square

Sankofa Square advances Reconciliation by actively partnering with Indigenous peoples and organizations to create inclusive spaces for truth-telling and cultural expression. It has hosted events that support Indigenous artists and communities, including:

- Indigenous Celebration Day, produced by the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.
- Everyone vs Racism, which highlighted Indigenous art.
- Ziigwan Indigenous Music and Arts Festival, organized by The Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund.

Through in-kind contributions valued at \$742,845, Sankofa Square has promoted Indigenous culture by providing digital screen time to Indigenous artists, ensuring fair compensation, and regularly displaying a Land Acknowledgement. These efforts aim to reflect a sustained commitment to raising awareness and celebrating Indigenous heritage.

Heritage Toronto

Heritage Toronto advances Reconciliation by providing staff training, updating public plaques, developing Indigenous-focused digital content, and hosting Indigenous-led programming during its tour season. More specifically:

- All staff have participated in internal training sessions focused on the context of Land Acknowledgements, and during Treaty Recognition Week, an Indigenous consultant facilitated an interactive blanket exercise to educate participants on Canadian history.
- Heritage Toronto has revised existing public plaques to reflect Indigenous language and historical narratives and has collaborated with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Wendat Nation, and the Kanien'keha:ka Nation to create new plaques.
- The organization has also invested in Indigenous-focused digital programming and launched six public tours supported in person by an Indigenous historian.

Toronto Transit Commission

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) intends to advance Reconciliation by actively building and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples, businesses, and organizations, while supporting Indigenous arts and culture. TTC has:

- Hosted initiatives such as Indigenous Peoples Month, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and National Accessibility Week. It has also commemorated Sisters in Spirit Day, held six sunrise ceremonies, raised flags in recognition of Indigenous communities, and participated in various Pow Wows and cultural ceremonies.
- Enhanced staff education through targeted training for Special Constables and Fare Inspectors, and awareness sessions on the history of residential schools and the contemporary contributions of Indigenous Peoples.
- To educate the public, TTC regularly features Indigenous artwork across its network.

TTC has formalized its commitment to Reconciliation through a Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation and has hired an Indigenous Consultant to lead the development of a Reconciliation Action Strategy.

Toronto Investment Board

There are no specific Reconciliation actions to report.

Toronto Zoo

Details of the Toronto Zoo's Reconciliation efforts include adopting the Reconciliation Action Plan to guide programs, initiatives and relationships with Indigenous Peoples and establishing a Toronto Zoo Indigenous Advisory Circle that informs the work the zoo undertakes. Additionally, the Toronto Zoo Indigenous Relations Unit has led activities that advance Reconciliation values and principles through various programs and initiatives including:

- The Conservation Science and Traditional Knowledge program includes partnering with a First Nation and consulting traditional Knowledge Providers to integrate their teachings.
- The Toronto Zoo Indigenous Logo, which was designed by an Anishnaabe artist, to signify commitment to advancing truth and Reconciliation while honoring the lands.
- Community engagement, involving complementary admission as one way to strengthen relationship and hosting a two-eyed seeing curriculum for young children.
- Increasing belonging through a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, hosting the Indigenous community, implementing an Indigenous Summer Leadership Program where students gain work experience, and implementing an Indigenous recruitment strategy.

- Engagement with First Nations youth for information sharing with respect to species at risk as part of the Wildlife Advocates program.
- The Wow for Good program includes engagement with Six Nations to share knowledge and practices on native plants.

Exhibition Place

Exhibition Place aims to advance Reconciliation by actively building relationships and partnerships that foster inclusion, public education, and expanded Indigenous-led initiatives. It commissioned the public art mural *Mino Bizmaadiziwin*, which reflects Indigenous cultural values. This project involved collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Indigenous artist(s), and engaged Elders and youth throughout the creative process, strengthening community ties. Serving as an educational tool, the mural incorporates Indigenous language and teachings about sacred medicines.

Exhibition Place has also deepened its engagement by partnering with a Métis-led organization to deliver workshops and community learning walks. Additionally, it hosts an annual flag-raising ceremony and has implemented Land Acknowledgements to recognize Indigenous territories and histories.

Toronto Public Library

Details of the Toronto Public Library's Reconciliation efforts include supporting Indigenous education, enhanced truth telling and awareness, and building relationships and partnerships. Specifically, Toronto Public Library has made advancements in Indigenous education by providing mandatory training for all staff, supporting staff with additional training opportunities, and creating Smudging Guidelines to assist staff in facilitating smudging requests.

For awareness and truth telling, Toronto Public Library has:

- Expanded Indigenous-led programming year-round for customers that feature organizations and community members on topics including Murders and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirited peoples (MMIWG2S+) and more.
- Developed a book and reading list that amplifies Indigenous voices including the Native people's Collection and yearly Read Indigenous booklists.
- Included dedicated Indigenous book collections at select branches.
- Expanded the dial-a-story collection to include Indigenous authors and storytellers.
- Established an Indigenous languages collections to support language revitalization.
- Redesigned the Toronto Public Library Indigenous Initiatives website to increase information access and include language learning resources.

- Hosted Treaty Recognition week events and programming to increase public knowledge with the original James Bay Treaty.
- Unveiled a mural by an Indigenous artist.

For relationships, Toronto Public Library has:

- Partnered with the Toronto Public Library Indigenous Advisory Council to develop book selections.
- Consulted an Indigenous architectural firm, design group, stakeholders, and community members for reconstructions and a renaming to support placemaking and placekeeping features.
- Partnered with an Indigenous bookstore to enhance language revitalization.
- Built a relationship with the Huron-Wendat Nation for renaming and to support placekeeping.
- Built relationships with Indigenous Peoples and community by offering a scholarship for the Google AI Essentials course.