

To: Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee

Date: 2018-04-11

From: Jessica Morrison, Policy Analyst – Indigenous Relations

File No: 3400-01

Subject: Adoption of Calls to Action 43, 47, and 57 as the Indigenous Relations Program Framework

RECOMMENDATION

THAT staff organize a workshop for the Fraser Valley Regional District Committee of the Whole to explore adopting Calls to Action 43, 47, and 57 of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as the guiding framework of the FVRD Indigenous Relations Program.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

The FVRD Indigenous Relations program is predicated on the core values of Relationships, Collaboration and Learning. The program framework links strategic objectives to specific goals, with progress toward goals tracked and reported to the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee (FVARC). Those core values and strategic objectives were developed to guide the development of the new program following its introduction in 2015.

DISCUSSION

As the FVRD Indigenous Relations program has been built-out over the past 3.5 years, it is a relevant time to review the core values, and provide a guiding context for the work.

Since beginning the work of constructing the FVRD program, the federal and provincial governments have begun providing a roadmap for this work. Grounding the FVRD program, policies and objectives in accordance with that guidance is an important next step.

Critically, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) issued its final report¹ of findings in late 2015. That report contained 94 Calls to Action (attachment 1) for various parties, including instructions specific to local governments.

While several of the Calls to Action can be supported, and issues advanced, by local governments in absence of being named specifically, the three Calls to Action in which local governments are directly called to action are as follows:

- 43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 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 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism*

These three Calls to Action, while largely informing the development of the FVRD Indigenous Relations Program, have not yet been formally incorporated into a guiding statement, or the organizational strategic direction for the FVRD.



The 5 Strategic Objectives of the FVRD Indigenous Relations Program

¹ The full Final Report of the TRC can be read online at <http://nctr.ca/reports.php>, and hard copies of the summary report are available in the FVRD #IndigenousReads Library in the Chilliwack office

In the meantime, the Government of Canada issued *10 Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* (attachment 2 to the earlier report on this agenda regarding Recent Consultation and Accommodation Case Law Updates) in 2017. The *10 Principles* document is an example of how the government has taken the Calls to Action and developed them into a guiding framework for its programs. The 10 federal Principles are summarized as:

1. Recognition of the right to self-determination
2. Reconciliation is the fundamental purpose of section 35 of the Constitution
3. The honour of the Crown guides its conduct
4. Indigenous self-government is a part of Canada's evolving cooperative federalism
5. Treaties and agreements are acts of reconciliation based on mutual respect
6. Meaningful engagement is to seek free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)
7. Any infringement of rights must meet a high threshold of justification
8. Reconciliation and self-government require a renewed fiscal relationship
9. Reconciliation is an on-going process
10. The recognition of rights will reflect the uniqueness of interests, priorities and circumstances of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples and communities.

British Columbia has introduced its *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* (attachment 2) in 2018. BC has closely modeled these draft Principles on the federal Principles, as above.

The Province notes that the Principles are intended to be "a tool to guide the BC Public Service in their work to adopt and implement the UN declaration and the calls to action. The principles reflect the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples described in the declaration, and mirror the actions related to a shift in relationships called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

COST

N/A

CONCLUSION

It is now a sensible time for the FVRD to formalize its program framework and follow the direction of higher orders of government. Incorporating a guiding framework both in accordance with federal and provincial Principles, and in response to direct calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is a next logical step.

COMMENTS BY:

Jennifer Kinneman, Director of Corporate Affairs

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

No further financial comments.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported

Attachments:

1. TRC Report 94 Calls to Action
2. Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples