

Indigenous Relations

Winnipeg has the highest urban Indigenous population in Canada. We can and must be a leader on reconciliation. Rather than relying on buzzwords and bare minimums, the City can act upon proposals which truly take care of the land, the water

and the people. If we are serious about addressing the most pressing challenges Indigenous people in Winnipeg face, it is going to require facing hard truths, truly listening and making some difficult and deliberate decisions come budget time.

Truth and Reconciliation are not boxes to check. Nor are equity and justice merely aspirational goals, rather they are requirements within the City's power to achieve.

The Alternative Municipal Budget proposes:

One way to advance truth and reconciliation is by implementing the existing recommendations. This is primarily the work of non-Indigenous people because survivors, their families and other Indigenous folks with lived experience have already shared their pain repeatedly through inquiries and task forces which have resulted in countless recommendations. Non-Indigenous people must use their influence and privilege to push decision makers to take meaningful action, such as implementing the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Calls for Justice from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry (MMIWG) and the recommendation in the original Aboriginal Justice Inquiry (AJI).

Ensuring that the Indigenous Relations Division has the resources to better monitor and support the signatories of the Indigenous Accord would allow us to take better stock of what still needs to be done and celebrate what has been. A direct commitment to Thunderbird House would be well worth celebrating. Fully resourcing and empowering the Indigenous Relations Division to act on community identified needs rather than those that might only be politically expedient will demonstrate true commitment to healing the harm done by the attempted genocide of Canada's Indigenous Peoples by its governments.

The Alternative Municipal Budget proposes:

- **Add three full time staff positions to the Indigenous Relations Division (Total \$300,000)**
- **Annual Operating Grant for Circle of Life Thunderbird House (Total \$190,000)**
- **Annual Operating Grant for Mama Bear Clan and Bear Clan Total (\$300,000 (\$150k each))**

There is a recommendation in the AJI for the TRC. There is a Call to Action in the TRC for the MMIWG Inquiry. There is a MMIWG Call for Justice that says to implement all the recommendations in the AJI. This continued delay is unacceptable and comes with deadly consequences. Now is the time for transformative change.

Questions for your candidate:

- If you are elected, what are you going to do to address the ongoing harm done to Indigenous Peoples by colonization and systemic racism?
- Will you fully staff the Indigenous Relations office and give it autonomy to work with community to determine priorities?
- Will you vote to provide annual operating grants totalling \$490,000 to Mama Bear Clan, Bear Clan and Circle of Life Thunderbird House?

There are alternatives. Budgets are about choices.
See the Alternative Municipal Budget at policyalternatives.ca

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