

Annual Update: Municipal Response to Truth and Reconciliation in Wood Buffalo

Presenter: Dennis Fraser, Director

Department: Indigenous and Rural Relations

Meeting Date: July 10, 2024



Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo acknowledges this land is Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene and the unceded territory of the Métis people.



“True North” - Frederick R. McDonald



Annual Reporting

- Council accepted the report *Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action: Principles for a Collaborative Pathway Forward in Wood Buffalo* as information in 2021.
- Council directed Administration to provide an annual update on the status of the municipal response to Truth and Reconciliation in Wood Buffalo with an additional report provided every four years to coincide with the Council term.
- IRR continues to create initiatives to advance reconciliation within the region and annual reports are provided to highlight these efforts.

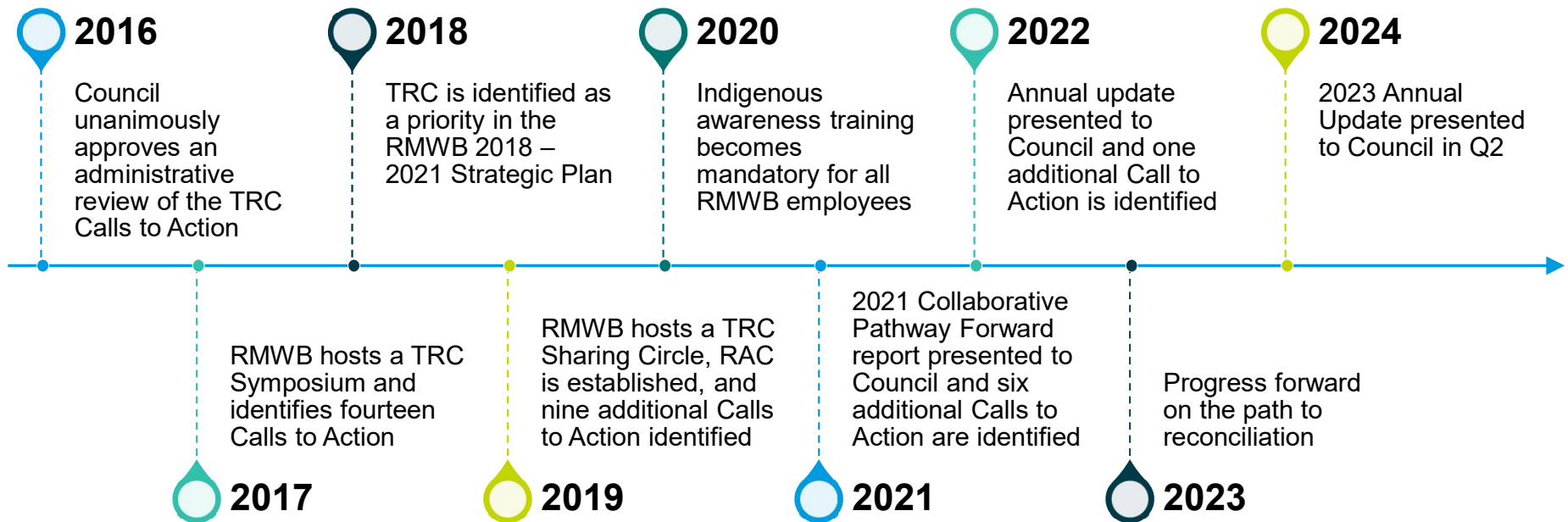


Overview

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada defines reconciliation as establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
- Between 2008 - 2015, the TRC travelled to communities across Canada to hear from more than 6500 of survivors about the impacts of residential schools.
- The TRC hosted 7 national events across Canada to engage the Canadian public, educate people about the history and legacy of residential schools, and share and honour the experiences of former students and their families.
- In December 2015, the TRC released their entire 6-volume Final Report - *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, which also issued the 94 Calls to Action.



Timeline



2023 Highlights

Q1

- National Indigenous Languages Day supported by RMWB with Mikisew Cree First Nation

Q2

- MMEIP Taskforce focused initiatives – Honour and Remember Gallery, Red Dress Day
- National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
- Truth and Reconciliation Champions established



2023 Highlights

Q3

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Memorial Walk and Gathering, 4-week Truth and Reconciliation Challenge, and Survivors Dinner
- “It’s Time to Read” Book Club

Q4

- Sisters in Spirit Day Gathering
- Protocol Agreements - 10/12 signed agreements with Indigenous Communities



Annual Update Report

- Provides a summary of the initiatives undertaken by the organization in 2023 to promote reconciliation within the Wood Buffalo region.
- Highlights the 30 Calls to Action adopted by the RMWB and summarizes relevant initiatives.
- Recommends the adoption of three additional Calls to Action that align with the Values identified in Council's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.



The Path Forward

- Emphasizing renewed or established Treaty relationships
- Action with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Build upon partnership with Wood Buffalo Regional Library
- Provide newcomers with information that reflects the history of local Indigenous Peoples



Recommendation to Council

1. THAT the attached report *Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo – 2023 Annual Update* be accepted as information.
2. THAT Call to Action 45 be formally adopted, which calls upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown.
3. THAT Call to Action 69 (recommended by Alberta Municipalities) be formally adopted, which encourages libraries to commit more resources to public education and programming focused on residential schools.
4. THAT Call to Action 93 (recommended by Alberta Municipalities) be formally adopted, which calls on governments to create and/or revise information kits for newcomers to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.



Thank You

