

United Nations Declaration *on the Rights* of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

WHAT IS UNDRIP?

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) sets out minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples around the world. Its goals are broad, but they centre on affirming Indigenous rights, correcting historical injustices, and guiding states toward respectful, rights-based relationships.



CORE GOALS

- 1 Protect Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Self-Determination:**
Affirm their right to determine their own governance structures, economic, social, cultural development and data on their own terms.
- 2 Safeguard Lands, Territories, and Resources:**
Affirms Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights to their traditional lands, territories, and resources, including ownership, use, development, and control.
- 3 Ensure Free, Prior, and Informed Consent:**
Indigenous Peoples must give free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) before governments or industries take actions affecting their lands, territories, or resources.
- 4 Protect Cultural Rights and Heritage:**
Affirm Indigenous rights to preserve and revive their culture, language, and traditions, while preventing harm or appropriation.
- 5 Promote Equality and Combat Discrimination:**
Ensure Indigenous peoples enjoy full human rights and freedoms, and work to prevent and address systemic racism.
- 6 Protect Social and Economic Rights:**
Affirm Indigenous peoples' rights to health, housing, education, and employment, and support Indigenous-led institutions and services.

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Actions and the Role of Municipalities

WHAT ARE CALLS TO ACTION?

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) documented the impacts of Indian Residential Schools and issued 94 Calls to Action (CTA) outlining specific steps needed to repair harms and advance reconciliation.

These Calls serve as a roadmap for systemic change and improved relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Municipalities play a critical role in the implementation of many of these calls although they are only explicitly mentioned in five CTA.



MUNICIPAL CTA

The City of Brantford, in partnership with Fluid Consulting and KLB Consulting, is developing an Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Framework. Of the 94 Calls to Action, 30 Calls have been identified as having significant municipal influence (direct or indirect). These calls will serve as a starting point for discussion and have been organized into three key themes.

▶ Community Well-Being and Safety

1, 3, 5, 18, 19, 30, 38, 40, 57, 66

▶ Land, Environment & Urban Development

43, 44, 47, 75, 76, 77, 79, 92

▶ Culture, Education & Community Life

10, 11, 14, 62, 63, 69, 70, 83, 87, 88, 93, 94

To help City of Brantford staff prepare for this engagement, these calls have been summarized. A full copy of the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls of Action can be found at:

www.nctr.ca/publications-and-reports/reports/

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING & SAFETY (Housing, Health, Social Supports, Policing, and Front-Line Services)

#1 – Child Welfare: Improve outcomes for Indigenous children by working with Nations and community agencies (municipalities contribute through local family supports, housing, poverty reduction, and social programs).

#3 – Jordan’s Principle: Ensure Indigenous children can access services without delay (relevant to municipal recreation, social services, and community programs).

#5 – Closing gaps in health outcomes: Municipal public health units and community services support this through culturally safe programming.

#18 – Indigenous healing practice: Municipal public health and wellness programs can create space for traditional practices.

#19 – Collecting health data: Municipal service providers contribute to better local data on Indigenous wellbeing.

#30 – Eliminating over-representation in correctional systems (indirect municipal CTA): Municipal policing and community safety plans are part of prevention and alternatives to incarceration.

#38 – Indigenous justice mechanisms: Municipal governments can support community-led diversion, restorative justice, and partnerships with Indigenous agencies.

#40 – Indigenous-led victim services (indirect municipal CTA): Municipalities often operate or fund victim support and crisis response systems.

#57 – Public Servant Education (direct municipal CTA): Mandatory training for all municipal staff and leadership on Indigenous history, rights, UNDRIP, treaties, and anti-racism.

#66 – Indigenous Youth Programs: Support community-based programs for Indigenous youth –recreation centres, arts, leadership, and mentorship.

LAND, ENVIRONMENT & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Land-Use Planning, Development, Infrastructure, and Heritage Sites)

#43 – Fully adopt and implement UNDRIP as a framework for reconciliation (direct municipal CTA): This directly applies to municipal policy, planning, bylaw and governance frameworks.

#44 – Indigenous Peoples & UNDRIP implementation (indirect municipal CTA): Municipalities must work in partnership with Indigenous Nations on land, programs, and services.

#47 – Dismantling colonial laws and structures (direct municipal CTA): Municipalities must review bylaws, planning systems, permitting processes, and governance structures that perpetuate colonial harm.

#75 – Missing Children & Burial Sites (direct municipal CTA): Identify, protect, and commemorate residential school burial sites, including those located on or near municipal lands.

#76 – Strategies for ongoing protection of burial sites (Indirect municipal CTA): Municipalities regulate cemeteries, archaeological processes, and heritage land-use decisions.

#77 – Archives & Records Access (direct municipal CTA): Municipal archives, land records, and maps are required to support investigations and the NCTR.

#79 – Commemoration & National Historic Sites: Municipalities influence public memory through monuments, plaques, place-names, park designations, and local heritage recognition.

#92 – Business & Economic Development (indirect municipal CTA): Municipal green procurement, Indigenous suppliers, and support for Indigenous entrepreneurship.

CULTURE, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY LIFE (Public Education, Libraries, Recreation, Culture, and Commemoration)

#10 – Indigenous language rights: Municipalities support language revitalization through libraries, signage, and community programming.

#11 – Indigenous language funding: Can support community-led language programs through grants, community centres, and partnerships.

#14 – Protecting Indigenous languages: Libraries, cultural centres, and public education play a role.

#62 – Education for Reconciliation (indirect municipal CTA): Municipal museums, libraries, and public education programs help the public learn Indigenous history and perspectives.

#63 – Public education materials: Municipal cultural institutions are responsible for truthful historical education.

#69 – Archives & Library Collections (indirect municipal CTA): Municipal libraries and museums must review policies to ensure respectful, accurate representation of Indigenous materials.

#70 – National Review of Museum Policies: Municipal museums must align with ethical guidelines for Indigenous collections.

#83 – Support for Indigenous artists: Municipal arts programs, grants, and public art strategies must include Indigenous creators.

#87 – Sports programs for Indigenous youth: Municipal recreation departments support equitable access and culturally safe programming.

#88 – Long-term Indigenous athlete development: Inclusive and barrier-free municipal recreation services.

#93 – Newcomers & Public Education (indirect municipal CTA): Municipal settlement services and public education programs must include Indigenous history and treaty responsibilities.

#94 – Oath of Citizenship (Public Ceremonies): Municipal facilities often host ceremonies and must incorporate truthful recognition of Indigenous rights and treaties.