

**MINUTES OF THE  
RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 AT 4:30 PM  
AT PORT ALBERNI CITY HALL**

**Committee:** Wally J Samuel, Cynthia Dick, Ann Robinson, Jim Tatoosh, Brandy Lauder, Sheena Falconer and Sharie Minions

**Guests:** Pam Craig and Ian Thomas

**Absent:** Ian Benoit

**Staff:** Timothy Pley, CAO  
Alicia Puusepp, Communications Manager

**1. Welcome**

Sharie Minions welcomed guests to City Hall and acknowledged the meeting was taking place on the unceded territories of the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations. Dinner was provided.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*It was moved and seconded:*

***That the agenda be approved as circulated.***

CARRIED

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*It was moved and seconded:*

***That the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting be adopted.***

CARRIED

**4. 2019 'Secret Path' event with Mike Downie**

Pam Craig addressed the committee and thanked them for having her to speak about an upcoming event called the Secret Path, the story of a young First Nation's boy who died while trying to escape a residential school. Pam is working to bring Mike Downie to Port Alberni for two events in October 2019. One event will be held for students and one for community members.

## 5. Review Draft City Report

Alicia reviewed a draft report on the committee's approach for presenting the final report to respective councils for the City of Port Alberni, Hupacasath First Nations and Tseshaht First Nation.

The committee liked the approach and discussed whether the Friendship Centre should be included in the proposed Council to Council to Council presentation. Each member of the Reconciliation Committee provided their thoughts on the Friendship Centre and out of respect for protocol, it was decided that the committee would engage with them separately on the recommendations.

Alicia's report is expected to go to Council on February 11, 2019, for consideration, provided the City has received support for the approach from both First Nations councils.

If approved by City Council, Alicia will work to set a meeting with all three councils and the committee in the last week of February or first week of March. Alicia will assign themes from the list of recommendations to each committee member for presentation to the councils.

Following the presentation, the committee will present to the Friendship Centre and submit the list of recommendations to City Council for consideration at a regular meeting of council. The City may then choose to host a celebratory event where the recommendations are presented to the public.

## 6. Next Meeting

TBD

## 7. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded:

***That the meeting adjourn at 6:30 p.m.***

**CARRIED**

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Sharie Minions, Chair

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Davina Hartwell, City Clerk

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Cynthia Dick, Chair



# CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

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## CLERKS DEPARTMENT

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TO: Tim Pley, CAO FILE

FROM: Alicia Puusepp, Communications Manager

COPIES TO: Mayor & Council

DATE: February 11, 2019

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### **SUBJECT: Reporting Back on the Reconciliation Committee's Recommendations**

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#### **Issue:**

That council direction be given on the approach for presenting the Reconciliation Committee's final report to the respective Councils for the City of Port Alberni, Tseshaht First Nation and Hupacasath First Nation.

#### **Background:**

The city of Port Alberni is located entirely within the traditional unceded territories of the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations. Given the city's geographic location on Vancouver Island, it also serves as a hub for a number of other First Nation administration, education, and commercial offices that provide a variety of services to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and other First Nations' individuals and communities.

In 2008 a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established by the Government of Canada to guide and inspire First Nations peoples and Canadians in a process of reconciliation and help renew relationships based on mutual understanding and respect. This commission was responsible for hosting national reconciliation events, collecting relevant archival documents relating to the residential schools from church and government bodies, collecting statements from survivors, and overseeing a commemoration fund to support community reconciliation events. In 2015 the commission released a report which included 94 "Calls to Action" that urged all levels of government to work together to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation.

At the local level, community discussions around reconciliation were gaining momentum. On March 27, 2017, a walk for reconciliation was held in Port Alberni that saw over 200 people from all different backgrounds band together to demonstrate their collective desire for change in the community. The walk concluded at City Hall where a joint delegation was heard by City Council encouraging the City to engage in meaningful reconciliation with local First Nations. Following the delegation, Council for the City of Port Alberni directed staff to bring forward a draft Terms of Reference regarding the creation of a select committee of Council to consider and report back on potential community-based actions towards reconciliation with local First Nations.

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On July 10, 2017, staff presented the draft Terms of Reference which Council adopted. The City then sought members for the committee through an expression of interest and on September 18, 2017, announced the successful candidates, including the appointment of then City Councillor, Sharie Minions.

Comprised of eight members (one member of City Council, two individuals identified by the Hupacasath First Nation, two individuals identified by the Tseshaht First Nation, and three residents at large appointed by City Council) the committee's purpose was to "investigate practical actions for the City and the community to help foster reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples." The committee first met on November 30, 2017, and has since met 17 times.

Once active, the committee identified the need to hear from community members. Using grant funding provided by the Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM), the committee hosted a community forum on March 27, 2018, called 'Advancing Reconciliation in Port Alberni.' The event welcomed approximately 112 residents, local First Nations, and elected officials from around the Alberni Valley. Attendees were invited to participate in a World Café which involved ten facilitated table discussions, each with a different question regarding reconciliation. The input received at the event formed the basis for the 27 recommendations developed by the committee.

### **Discussion:**

The Terms of Reference set out for the committee indicate that a final report be presented to the respective councils for the City of Port Alberni, Hupacasath First Nations and Tseshaht First Nations. As the recommendations have implications to all three councils, the committee is requesting that a joint event be held in 2019 to present their recommendations.

### **Recommendation:**

It is recommended that Council for the City of Port Alberni direct city staff to coordinate a joint community forum with the Hupacasath First Nation, Tseshaht First Nation and Friendship Centre at which the reconciliation committee present the 27 recommendations to the three respective councils.

## Final Recommendations

January 16, 2019

### KEY RECOMMENDATION:

That the respective councils of the City of Port Alberni, Tseshaht First Nation, Hupacasath First Nation and Board of the Friendship Centre support the creation of a new (similar) committee to advance and foster reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in the Alberni Valley with a revised Terms of Reference and expanded membership to be agreed upon by all parties.

THEME	RECOMMENDATION
Cityscapes	Redesign the City's logo to incorporate First Nation elements.
	Add First Nations words/names to numbered streets and other destinations/locations/structures within City limits and include First Nations words/names on the City's <i>Approved Street Names</i> list.
	Install two new flag poles at City Hall to fly the two local First Nation flags year-round. In the meantime, fly both Hupacasath and Tseshaht flags on Aboriginal Day (June 21st).
Government Relations	Create a Working Group with the ACRD, City of Port Alberni, Hupacasath and Tseshaht with Terms of Reference to aid govt-to-govt. relations.
	Engage and encourage First Nations to get involved in local politics, seek political office and join various committees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage diversity on committees by various means, including but not limited to sending "Expressions of Interest" to First Nations for consideration.</li> </ul>
	Develop a reconciliation protocol to guide collaborative processes between Port Alberni, Hupacasath and Tseshaht communities.
	Develop a process to jointly pursue grant funding opportunities.
	Review C2C funding opportunities for development of a quad-partite agreement between the City, Hupacasath, Tseshaht and Friendship Centre.
	That the City review its policies and procedures to reflect intent and specific actions of the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP.
	That the City, when next amending their Strategic Plan, seek to include the intent of the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP.
	That the City creates a policy to establish a government-to-government engagement process for major projects.

Date of Issue: Jan 22, 2019

## Final Recommendations

January 16, 2019

THEME	RECOMMENDATION
Education	Provide educational opportunities within the community on the history of local First Nations, the resources available and the purpose of UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action.
Events	<p data-bbox="583 375 1262 407">Hold a Blanket Exercise for City staff and Councillors</p> <p data-bbox="583 427 1787 496">Promote First Nations events on social media and within the City (Orange Shirt Day, National Aboriginal Peoples Day, etc.)</p> <p data-bbox="583 521 1814 553">That March 27th be proclaimed a day that recognizes reconciliation in Port Alberni henceforth.</p> <p data-bbox="583 578 1801 649">That the City, Tseshaht, Hupacasath and Friendship Centre hold joint community events twice annually. One to be a reconciliation workshop the other to be a celebration.</p> <p data-bbox="583 673 1887 745">That the City, Hupacasath, Tseshaht and Friendship Centre host joint screening events of the First Contact series at the Paramount Theater with support.</p>
Partnerships	Compile report identifying obstacles that create inequality in the opportunities for First Nations employment in the workforce and identify a means to increase employment opportunities for First Nations people in the City and the community.
Languages	<p data-bbox="583 927 1860 1032">Draft a letter endorsed by the City, Hupacasath, Tseshaht, and Friendship Centre with recommendations on how to further support approaches for teaching traditional languages within Port Alberni's educational jurisdiction.</p> <p data-bbox="583 1065 1839 1136">Incorporate language into Council meetings (i.e. part of welcome/acknowledgment of traditional territories.)</p> <p data-bbox="583 1161 1545 1232">Educate on place names in Port Alberni using original First Nations names. Example: rename Canal Beach to Tiipis Beach</p>

**Final Recommendations**  
 January 16, 2019

<b>THEME</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
Urban First Nations	The committee lobbies to improve access to services for First Nations living away from home.
Other	Commission a joint public art piece that is representative of all four groups.
	That the City seek funding opportunities to hire a person dedicated to leading reconciliation actions, events and initiatives in the community.
	That the City embeds funding in their annual budget for reconciliation.
	That the City creates a program, similar to the Community Investment Program (CIP), for reconciliation events or that a dollar amount from the CIP is dedicated to reconciliation.