

City of Saskatoon Initiatives

City of Saskatoon Reconciliation Initiatives

The Reconciliation Community of Practice met twice in 2021 to discuss the next steps of the recommendations coming out of the Reconciliation Action and Measurement Project (RAMP) Report “Assessing and Advancing the City of Saskatoon’s Journey Toward Truth, Reconciliation and Treaty Implementation”. A Data and Indicator Working Group was created to review all the indicators coming out of the report and making connections on how the City of Saskatoon can respond measuring our efforts. An analysis of the recommendations was then taken to budget to increase reconciliation efforts in the City of Saskatoon and as a result, an increase of human capacity and financial support were included in the 2021 budget cycle to continue the City’s journey to responding to the TRC Calls to Action.

Indigenous Employment

Our commitment to responding to the TRC Calls to Action #92.2 which speaks to creating employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples requires that Indigenous Initiatives works closely with City of Saskatoon leadership and the Human Resources team. As part of this partnership, Indigenous Initiatives was consulted and offered suggestions and strategy approaches to be added into the Indigenous Employment Strategy developed by the Human Resources team and is explained in more detail in the REDI Information Report. As a strategic partner, the Indigenous Employment Coordinator within Human Resources participated in meetings with us and our partners STC and SIIT as issues, initiatives, and projects were discussed.

Indigenous Initiatives and Human Resources partnered on the cost to become a member of Indigenous Works, a non-profit organization with a mandate to increase Indigenous engagement in the Canadian economy and to work with organizations to strengthen their results in Indigenous employment, workplace engagement and inclusion. Indigenous Works members have access to an array of educational opportunities, and innovative resources to help employers benchmark and build strong Indigenous inclusion objectives.

Key internal initiatives and learning opportunities provided to staff to increase knowledge and awareness included: Land Acknowledgements, HR Connect – Eliminating Outdated Language & (Indigenous) Micro-Aggressions, Reconciliation 101, sharing information and resources related to unmarked grave locations, providing managers with resources to support staff through difficult times related to discoveries, and covered costs of training such as the “Indigenous Ally Course”.

The City of Saskatoon, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and Radius Community Centre and Gabriel Dumont Institute partnered on the kanātan nipīy (the water is clean/clean water) training project. The City of Saskatoon is responsible for the largest collection and distribution systems in the province. In addition, there are numerous First Nations communities that are without access to safe drinking water; something that is critical to the quality of life for everyone. Components of the training

included essential skills, and water treatment and distribution and wastewater treatment and collection. The program held March and April 2021 had 9 of the 10 participants leaving the program with employment with 8 directly in the field.

Indigenous Procurement

On November 4, 2021, Saskatchewan Indigenous Economic Development Network (SIEDN) and the Saskatchewan Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) hosted the City's Director of Supply Chain Management, for Procurement 101: Doing Business With the City of Saskatoon - a webinar discussion about the City's procurement process and how Indigenous suppliers can access those opportunities. There were 116 participants.

On November 4, 2021, the Director of Supply Chain Management, the Director of Indigenous Initiatives and the Director of Indigenous Engagement, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce presented at the City's Project Management Community of Practice Fall Learning event on Indigenous Participation and Economic Reconciliation. There were approximately 125 participants.

In November 2021, SREDA and the City presented to Warman and Martensville City Councils about the benefits of having an Indigenous Procurement Policy. A Municipal Indigenous Procurement Workshop was with the City of Warman in December.

Moving forward in 2022, City officials will be participating in the Ministry of Trade and Export Development's Indigenous Business Forum on April 21, 2022. The goal of the event is to showcase Indigenous owned businesses to recent investors in the province, non-Indigenous companies operating in Saskatchewan, municipalities and Crown Corporations. In addition to networking, the City will also have a booth.

Additionally, development and integration of the City's Indigenous Procurement Protocol will continue. Benchmarks and reporting will be created to bring more visibility and to drive incremental change.

Indigenous Engagement

The City of Saskatoon is committed to building respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and engaging them in meaningful dialogue on decisions that may impact them. Indigenous Initiatives provides support, guidance and advice to City staff on Indigenous engagement for their projects or events including engagement and protocol with Elders and knowledge keepers.

Specifically, Indigenous Initiatives works closely with the City's Communications and Public Engagement Department to plan and coordinate meetings and act as a conduit between the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group (ITAG) and the City's project teams.

ITAG is a structure through which members participate in the design of City of Saskatoon initiatives to help ensure that the unique interests and perspectives of Indigenous peoples are acknowledged, affirmed and implemented.

ITAG met 3 times in 2021. Much of the discussion focused on evaluation, planning and prioritizing. The City of Saskatoon has a large number projects that would benefit by going to ITAG. However, for engagement to be meaningful and authentic and for project managers to receive the input and guidance they are looking for, ITAG needed to have discussions on this. On December 10, 2022, His Worship Mayor Clark and his Chief of Staff met with ITAG at their request. Members of ITAG spoke about the importance of this work and the need to create more awareness about the work ITAG does.

Implementing Memorandums of Understanding and Partnership Agreements

- *MOU with Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies*

This MOU was signed in 2018 to support Indigenous education, career development and training opportunities for SIIT students as well as clients of SIITs Career Centre. A workplan for 2021 was developed.

Regular meetings were held between Indigenous Initiatives and the City's Indigenous Employment Coordinator and leadership from SIIT. Updates were provided by the City and SIIT on various initiatives. In late 2021, SIIT representatives made it clear that the expectation was that the City needed to show progress on Indigenous employment, and employing SIIT graduates in particular.

The City of Saskatoon remains committed to the MOU and improving the quality of life for urban Indigenous learners and workers.

- *Saskatoon Tribal Council Prosperity Through Reconciliation Partnership Agreement*

This Agreement was signed in October 2019 with the overall goal of improving quality of life of urban Indigenous people in Saskatoon. The 2021 workplan included a range of activities in different sectors including sustainability, procurement, employment and training and community safety and wellbeing.

On March 25, 2021, members of City Council met virtually with STC Government House (Tribal Chief and Chiefs of the 7 First Nations) to build relationships and discuss issues, solutions and priorities on improving the quality of life of Indigenous people in Saskatoon.

City Administration met regularly with STC officials regarding items identified in the workplan plus there was a need to respond to emergent issues as they arose. For example, this included various departments at the City supporting STC in the creation of an Emergency Wellness Centre in downtown Saskatoon. Other initiatives Community Development worked with STC on are covered off in the Recreation and Community Development 2021 Annual Report.

In October 2021, STC began a social media campaign #ActOnReconciliation asking everyone to continue creating awareness and action on the National Day for Truth and

Reconciliation and residential school survivors that answers the TRC's Call to Action #80. STC invited everyone to help create the movement by:

1. Wearing Orange on the last Friday of every month.
2. Taking pictures or create videos.
3. Sharing how they will take action on Reconciliation.
4. Posting content on social media using #ActOnReconciliation.
5. Inviting others to do the same.
6. Repeating monthly until the next National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2022.

The campaign emphasized that Truth and Reconciliation are not just one day a year.

The City of Saskatoon has been a very active supporter of the movement creating posters and social media content and encouraging action monthly. The City will continue to support this campaign.

In 2022, STC and the City of Saskatoon are working together on an orange banner project where orange banners will be hung in various places throughout the city in September to create awareness and honour residential school survivors and those that didn't make it home.

Tribute Circles

The City held a Virtual Tribute Circle on June 4th as a way for City staff to come together and honour the 215 children discovered in an unmarked grave at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops. The Tribute was organized by the Indigenous Initiatives Department and staff from the Social Development Section and Remai Modern.

This was an opportunity to pay tribute to the Kamloops children and all residential school victims, as well as to support one another during a difficult time. It was open to all City staff (including staff of our controlled corporations) and members of Council. Approximately 300 employees joined the virtual event and many more indicated their interest in viewing a recording.

The Tribute Circle included survivor stories, prayer and song, contributions from City leadership and members of Council, a moment of silence (215 seconds), and an opportunity for City staff to share their thoughts and feelings by speaking or putting comments in the chat. The event was facilitated by Lyndon Linklater, a traditional Knowledge Keeper and storyteller and the Remai's Indigenous Relations Advisor.

The second Tribute Circle that was organized was held on September 29 in advance of the first ever National Day for Truth & Reconciliation held on September 30th which is also known as Orange Shirt Day. This Tribute Circle was an online event for City staff to learn more about the true history of Canada and the impacts of the residential school era to help our staff consider what personal and professional steps they can take towards reconciliation.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day – September 30

On August 30, 2021, Saskatoon City Council unanimously agreed to observe the statutory holiday for its employees. In choosing to observe the day, Council showed incredible leadership and demonstrated its commitment to reconciliation. Other activities that were done included:

- Creating and maintaining a Community Calendar of Events that provided dozens of ways to mark the day including local initiatives as well as national events such as those offered by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Keeping staff informed about ways to take steps towards reconciliation via MyCity and other internal information channels.
- Encouraging staff to add an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement to their e-signature that recognizes *Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*.
- Making orange handprint window decals available to every City employee and Councillor. The handprints were made by the daughter of a residential school survivor.
- Providing up to date information and links to resources at saskatoon.ca/Indigenous and saskatoon.ca
- Applied orange filters to City/Transit social media accounts and an info box to the City's webpage during the week of September 27
- Lighting up in orange the Prairie Wind Art Installation and SaskTel Centre on September 29 and 30
- Distributing posters to City facilities and to 100+ Reconciliation Saskatoon members
- Organizing a free swim for September 30 in response to TRC Calls to Action #66 and 89 – to make community programming available to youth and reduce barriers to sports participation, and to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being
- Posting photos of Councillors to City social media channels with their answer to: “why I wear an orange shirt”.
- Displaying orange t-shirt stencils on Transit buses and other City vehicles
- Delivering a presentation about the new NDTR and its significance at the Sept. 15th Employee Town Hall which had close to 1,000 attendees.
- Making resources available such as this Personal Commitment to Reconciliation and this Pathway for Moving Forward through our participation in Reconciliation Saskatoon
- The City of Saskatoon proclaimed September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This was approved by the City Clerk in accordance with *The Flag and Proclamation Policy*.

Land Development

Indigenous Initiatives was a part of a planning committee with the Ministry of Trade & Export Development, the Saskatchewan Indigenous Economic Development Network and other organizations to develop a series of virtual forums on Indigenous land development. Indigenous Initiatives made a partnership contribution of \$5000 as well.

On September 14, 2021 staff from Saskatoon Land and Planning & Development presented on Land Development in Saskatoon: Purchase to Permits. It included information on land acquisition and development, land development and regulations and urban reserve creation.

Indigenous Initiatives meets with First Nations along with Planning & Development as and when requested.

Renaming of John A. MacDonald Road

In June 2021, City Council passed a resolution directing Administration to begin the process for the renaming of John A. Macdonald Road as a way to acknowledge the on-going harm in the community experienced by Indian residential school survivors and the role that John A. Macdonald played in this part of history. Indigenous Initiatives has played a supportive role in this project working with Planning & Development and Communications and Public Engagement.

An Engage Page was created, which includes the ability for individuals to submit an online comment form, includes links to education materials, and an online flyer which outlines the current activities. Discussions with the residential school survivors, Elders and Knowledge Keepers have occurred including an initial engagement session that was held on November 24, 2021 with Reconciliation Saskatoon's Learning Committee and a number of Elders/Knowledge Keepers and residential school survivors.

Appropriate education and awareness materials as well as an appropriate and safe engagement process will be determined. Involvement of the residents of John A. Macdonald Road in further engagement will also be discussed.

Wicihitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference

Wicihitowin, which is Cree and Saulteaux means "helping each other". The intent of the conference is to help each other through the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action and that we all have a part in learning.

In 2021, roughly 2,500 participants registered from across Canada and around the world for the virtual 7th annual Wicihitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference held on October 6 & 7 making it the largest audience yet. The conference focused on the 7 Sacred Teachings of: Wisdom, Love, Humility, Courage, Honesty, Respect, & Truth. Produced in partnership with Saskatoon Public Library, Saskatchewan Health Authority, United Way of Saskatoon and Area and the Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy, professionals from the public and private sectors, representing various industries within public administration, health, law, education, social services and business had come together for two days of knowledge sharing and Reconciliation.

Of the 314 delegates who completed the feedback survey:

- 96% of respondents felt that the Wicihitowin conference has contributed to progress on Indigenous engagement efforts within community-based organizations, governments, and/or businesses.

- 97% of respondents stated that the Wícihitowin conference has brought to life the TRC Calls to Action.
- 85% of respondents felt that they have they have (either quite a bit or to some extent) started to see changes in their own organizations or communities that are linked to the TRC's Calls to Action.

Indigenous Initiatives provided a financial contribution of \$10K to the conference. Staff from Social Development co-chaired the Planning Committee, curated guest speakers, coordinated video shoots, moderated online discussions throughout the conference, and co-hosted the event. Staff in Communications and Public Engagement provided communications support.

Plans are underway for the 8th Annual Conference which will be held on October 4-6, 2022.

Reconciliation Saskatoon

In 2021, the City of Saskatoon as co-chair and grant administrator, supported the work of Reconciliation Saskatoon, which experienced tremendous growth and created opportunities for people to find and respond to calls to action and actively engage in a journey of truth and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Reconciliation Saskatoon has six Action Groups focused on specific areas of truth and reconciliation: Healing, Youth/Families, Newcomers, Business Engagement, Two Spirit and a Book Club. Each group was able to pay honorariums to youth, people with lived experience, Knowledge Keepers and Residential School Survivors and this was instrumental to the work of each group.

We currently have 108 people participating in monthly meetings with the Action Groups. Of those we have 9 youth advocates and 5 community advocates (Indigenous people with lived experience) who attend meetings and receive honorariums to do so. In addition to those people, we have 10 Residential School Survivors and 9 Knowledge Keepers that participate in the meetings. Within the Action Groups, we have Indigenous, non-Indigenous and newcomer members.

In 2021, our Action Groups and Learning Committee held 25 events with over 2,000 people participating. These events ranged from education to cultural celebration and brought together diverse audiences to engage in the work of anti-racism and find new ways for working together in the future. This does not include awareness raising campaigns launched on the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation or the virtual Walk for Reconciliation on National Indigenous Peoples Day. Some examples of our events from 2021 follow.

The Business Engagement Action Group invited guest speakers to educate the group on Economic Reconciliation and explore the opportunities to engage the private sector in this work. As a result of those sessions, they developed an event entitled Pathfinder: Finding Your Way to Economic Reconciliation which featured a diverse group of

speakers for an entire afternoon of learning. They developed a resource list, promoted the use of ConnectR and held a follow-up event in November to reinforce action among the participants. They are currently developing an Economic Reconciliation Toolkit focused on fostering action with small to mid-sized businesses.

The Newcomer Action Group identified that racism often gets transferred to newcomers from taxi drivers during the settlement process. This group engaged with a local taxi company and focused on Indigenous Awareness Training for all their drivers. That training was extremely successful and took place in Sept 2021.

The Youth/Families Action group identified an opportunity to engage with the school systems as a highly effective way to engage more youth in truth and reconciliation. They partnered with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation to host an event this fall, featuring Dwight Ballantyne of The Ballantyne Project who did a presentation about life in remote reserves. Many classrooms attended as well as the general public and the students were extremely engaged in asking Dwight questions and learning about his experiences as an Indigenous youth.

On May 28, 2021 the Reconciliation Saskatoon Flag was raised at Civic Square City Hall to signify the continued commitment of the City of Saskatoon to addressing the TRC Calls to Action. The Ceremony included remarks by dignitaries from the Saskatoon Survivors Circle, His Worship Mayor of Saskatoon, Tribal Chief from the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and President from the Central Urban Metis Federation Inc. (CUMFI). This day signifies the importance of relationship building that would help build a better quality of life for everyone in Saskatoon through the spirit of reconciliation.

Once a year on June 21 which is National Indigenous Peoples Day, Reconciliation Saskatoon hosts Rock Your Roots, a city-wide Walk for Reconciliation. Prior to COVID, organizers would see upwards of 5000 people gather to honour this day. In June of 2021, because of the pandemic the organizers worked with the Saskatoon Public Library and launched Reconciliation Saskatoon's: Know Your Roots Walking Tour, which is a downloadable walking tour of downtown Saskatoon that speaks to art, and the history of the First Peoples of Saskatoon. People were encouraged to walk with people in their bubble and read up on Saskatoon's rich history.

Indigenous Initiatives staff continue to take a lead role in Reconciliation Saskatoon meetings, grant application, administration, and final reporting. In 2021, Reconciliation Saskatoon brought in upwards of \$157,000 that goes towards creating education and awareness opportunities for the broader Saskatoon community. We also play a key role in Elder/Knowledge Keeper engagement and protocol, honorarium payments, and scheduling of meetings.

Saskatoon Survivors Circle

The Saskatoon Survivors Circle (SSC) was created for survivors of the residential schools in the Saskatoon and area to have a safe space to connect with other survivors, share stories, create a sense of community, while promoting wellness and inclusion that

involves cultural protocols and teachings. This SSC has been called upon by community groups and agencies, including the City of Saskatoon as advisors and speakers regarding reconciliation, residential schools and systemic change.

Indigenous Initiatives staff continued to provide support for the Saskatoon Survivors Circle by applying for grants on their behalf. Indigenous Initiatives regularly attended monthly SSC meetings and also assisted with different events as needed.

On July 20, 2021 Indigenous Initiatives staff assisted the Saskatoon Survivors Circle National Day of Prayer in response to the 215 unmarked graves found at a former Indian Residential School in Kamloops B.C. Led by members of the Saskatoon Survivors Circle, many residential school survivors from around Saskatchewan attended this special day as ceremonial pipes were raised. Survivors throughout Canada encouraged each other to gather this day in prayer and to raise their pipes in ceremony to pay respects of those children who were found and to offer safe passage for them. Survivors and families continue to advocate for governments and churches to commit more resources and attention for those unmarked graves and bring attention to Missing Children and Burial Information, TRC Calls to Action #71-76, which calls on the need to increase awareness, create data bases for those lost, generate maps, and create documentation and commemoration and protection of those that have attended residential schools and have not made it home.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On July 19th, 2021 Council resolved that City Administration report back to the Governance and Priorities Committee on the process and implications for adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the City of Saskatoon. With the assistance of an intern from Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, an environmental scan of other municipalities work in this area is being done. In addition, an analysis will need to be done on current City initiatives as they related to meeting the articles of UNDRIP.

Responding to the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Two-Spirit Calls for Justice

In July 2019, Administration was directed to review the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Two-Spirit Calls for Justice and identify options for how the City of Saskatoon can respond.

In order to move forward on this work, an MMIWG2S Advisory Group was created with representation from various organizations and guided by an Elder. Consultants were hired to pull together a report.

In July of 2021, the Indigenous Women and Girls, Two-Spirit Coming Home Report was presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee that outlined recommendations and a path forward.

The recommendation was to ‘Listen to the Aunties’ and recommended a 3 phased approach:

1. Creation of the Independent Office of the Representative of the Matriarchs
2. Creation of a Women’s Centre
3. Extending Role to Become an Officer of Transparency and Accountability

The MMIWG2S Advisory Group met with the consultants in September and an Information Session for City staff and corporations and staff of Advisory Group organizations was held on November 24, 2021. This Information Session was an opportunity to hear how the report’s research was undertaken and understand the key recommendation: “Listen to the Aunties.” There was discussion and reflection on how organizations could translate this recommendation into implementing change. Approximately 90 people participated.

In the November 2021 budget deliberations, a capital budget request was made to City Council and supported.

In addition to work related to the IWG2S Coming Home Report, Indigenous Initiatives participated in a number of events in the community to raise awareness for MMIWG2S including Red Dress Day, Sisters in Spirit Vigil and walks hosted by families for their loved ones.

Saskatoon Indigenous Community Action Partnership

The Saskatoon Indigenous Community Action Partnership (SICAP) is a community-based partnership comprised of local agencies and businesses committed to improving the lives of Indigenous citizens of Saskatoon and the greater Saskatoon community. Initial priority areas that were identified to move conversations about Indigenous issues in Saskatoon from research findings and recommendations to implementation and action are as follows:

- Access to Holistic Health Services
- Community inclusion and safety
- Reducing barriers to service and support
- Education and Training
- Aboriginal culture and history
- Homelessness and Affordable housing
- Employment and Economy

The Director of Indigenous Initiatives is a board member, and the Cultural Diversity & Race Relations Coordinator participates in the meetings as well.

A focus of SICAP in 2021 was a stock photo project that fills a need for organizations, including the City of Saskatoon, to have access to photos of Indigenous people that may be needed for communications and marketing. This project also serves to promote and highlight the work of Indigenous photographers.

Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (REDI)

Indigenous Initiatives has a staff member on the Systemic Barriers Project Team that meets regularly to advance the project working to respond to the City Council's motion to address barriers in Public Engagement, Human Resources, and Boards and Committees.

One of the recommendations out of the RAMPP report was to create a Senior Leadership Advisory Committee specifically to advancing Truth & Reconciliation and Treaty Implementation internally within the City of Saskatoon. Currently, the REDI Stewardship Committee is fulfilling this mandate. Staff also make their best efforts in ensuring that we have an Elder available for REDI Team meetings to provide guidance, advice and perspective.

Other

Indigenous Initiatives staff continued to be engaged on various projects throughout the organization providing subject matter advice and perspective on various plans, strategies, policies, and procedures.

Other Departments

- *Neighbourhood Planning, Planning and Development*

As a way to honour First Nations and Métis peoples' histories and cultures, Neighbourhood Planning and Indigenous Initiatives worked together with local Elders, Harry Lafond and Senator Nora Cummings, to feature Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis medals on bike racks along Saskatoon's historical 21st Street. The bike racks were installed April 2021. The Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC) and the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) provided important historical information to explain the significance of the medals and the history of First Nations and Métis peoples in Saskatoon and surrounding area. These medals were chosen as meaningful symbols that could demonstrate respect for Saskatoon's Indigenous histories on one of the city's major historic streets. The bike racks were created in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action No. 79: *Participate in a strategy to commemorate the contributions and history of Aboriginal peoples to Canada*. With the support of the Downtown Business Improvement District, this information is posted in the directories along 21st Street.

- *Saskatoon Transit – Reconciliation Bus Shelter*

Indigenous Initiatives supported Saskatoon Transit to work in partnership with the Saskatoon Public School Division, E.D. Feehan High School to engage with First Nation Elder Harry Lafond, Newcomer Senos Timon, and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Senator Nora Cummings to learn more about relationship building between all nations. The theme of their work was Reconciliation and the youth from E.D. Feehan High Schools miyo-machowin program created a mural with the help of a local artist who transformed the stories from the Elders into a living vision of reconciliation. On June 22, 2021 the bus shelter was unveiled and members of the media and general public were on hand to witness the work dedicated to responding to the TRC Calls to Action through commemoration.

- *Sustainability*

The Water Conservation Strategy recommends actions for reducing emissions and increasing the resilience of the of the water system, and to address costs and affordability of water. The Strategy responds to TRC action 92, through meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples to recommended projects, and ensure that Indigenous communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from the Strategy. This strategy was presented to the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group for engagement in 2021. As a result of feedback from ITAG, engagement with Cress Housing and other subject matter experts began to identify opportunities for collaboration under the Reconciliation Partnership Agreement between City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Triple Bottom Line

The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Council Policy and framework requires that City staff consider sustainability when planning new initiatives or re-evaluating existing initiatives. The objective is to consider how to integrate as many Triple Bottom Line Indicators as possible into City Initiatives, while avoiding trade-offs, negative impacts, and significant adverse effects. Specifically, an indicator within equity and opportunity aligns directly: "Support Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and/or initiatives that support the rights of Indigenous peoples". The Water Conservation Strategy recommends actions for reducing emissions and increasing the resilience of the of the water system, and to address costs and affordability of water. The Strategy responds to TRC action 92, through meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples to recommended projects, and ensure that Indigenous communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from the Strategy. Further, the Principle of Economic Prosperity and Fiscal Responsibility includes an indicator for Sustainable Procurement described as " Promote and participate in procurement opportunities with Diverse and Indigenous Suppliers". Throughout 2020 and 2021 the TBL Framework was developed and implemented with over 60 TBL reviews completed as of the end of 2021, 25 of these were reported to City Council, and 57 were facilitated by the TBL Project Manager. In 2021, the Equity Toolkit, a how-to guide for incorporating equity into projects throughout different phases from inception to implementation, was also established. Additionally, recent and outstanding inquiries by City Council have requested additional work around sustainable procurement, equity reviews of existing programs, and improved quantification of the TBL outcomes.

Sustainability – ICI Building Retrofit Program

This project involves the establishment of an energy education and incentive/financing program for the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector. The new program will build on the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) that is currently operational for the residential sector to target larger properties. The final program would include a financing and/or incentive program, education materials and training as well as networking opportunities for businesses. The project will include engagement with Indigenous businesses and multi-unit building owners, occupants, to incorporate their perspectives into this program design. Planning was underway in 2021 with pre-engagement conversations with Indigenous Initiatives with phase 1 of the project commencing in 2022.

Sustainability – Renewable Energy Strategy

The renewable energy strategy recommends actions for transitioning away from CO₂e emitting technology for our energy usage. The actions will have an opportunity to responding to TRC action 92, through meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples before proceeding with the recommended projects and ensuring that Indigenous communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from the recommended projects. Engagement with First Nations Power Authority (FNPA), among other Subject Matter Experts, to identify barriers and opportunities for renewable energy in Saskatoon. 2022 will focus on "Closing the loop" on engagement and will include outreach to FNPA. Strategy to include engagements recommendations (e.g. recommend including Indigenous criteria in any procurements related to the actions)