



Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord

Our Shared Future Rooted in Truth, Harmony, and Generosity

Our Vision

***Developed by children gathered in harmony to visualize a future of Winnipeg**

*"The city of Winnipeg is a place where everyone has a voice, a place where people and the environment come first, where everyone has fair access. Everyone should be treated with respect and acceptance and kindness. Everyone should treat everyone kindly and equally and accept them for who they are because when you feel like you belong, you achieve freedom. United as one, and hopeful, we can work toward a peaceful and safe city. Be a leader that thinks for yourself and speaks up for change."**

The name Winnipeg has its origins in the Cree name given to Lake Winnipeg "Win"-muddy, "nippe"-water. Winnipeg is located within Treaty No. 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota, and is the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland. People from around the world have come to call Winnipeg home and our community prides itself in its cultural diversity. As the original inhabitants of this land and as inhabitants of this land by birth or adoption, we all share the goal to make our city a better place to live based on mutual respect, equal opportunity, and hope.

This place has been host to many for thousands of years and present day is home to Inuit from northern territory and Indigenous peoples from other territories arriving from all directions by land, air, and water. The spirit of this legacy is manifest in present day by the observance of greetings and friendship extended to all Indigenous peoples who newly arrive in Winnipeg.

What does reconciliation mean? It is a question of basic human dignity. It's the right of every person from every background to be treated with kindness, decency, and respect, and this benefits all of us. It also means renewing that story of partnership and peace that the treaties began to tell. We are all working towards the same goal - to build happy, resilient, strong, and prosperous families. When we recover the true Canadian story of peace and partnership and inclusion, our highest ideals we cherish, we will improve our chances of success.

Our Commitments

The City of Winnipeg is committed to building an ongoing process of reconciliation in Winnipeg, a process that is based on the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments, organizations, and individuals.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to embracing a respectful relationship with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Winnipeg and committed to a purposeful and influential leadership role to engage new partners to join us in the collective process of reconciliation in Winnipeg.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to a reconciliation process guided by the knowledge and experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and will include distinct cultural traditions, protocols, ceremonies, and languages as an expression of their identity and nationhood.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to engaging multiple sectors, organizations, groups, and individuals across Winnipeg to build new initiatives, partnerships, and advance reconciliation efforts with Indigenous Peoples, guided by the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to participating in acts of reconciliation and celebration across the city such that it initiates and experiences a positive change in the culture of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Winnipeg.

The City of Winnipeg and partners of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord are committed to collaborating to formulate and execute action plans observing the commitments, shared values, and principles as expressed in this Accord for the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

Our Principles

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada believes that in order for Canada to flourish in the twenty first century, reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canada must be based on the following principles:

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society.
2. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.
3. Reconciliation is a process of healing of relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
4. Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Indigenous peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, the administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.
5. Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.
6. All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.
7. The perspectives and understandings of Indigenous Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.
8. Supporting Indigenous peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.
9. Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.
10. Reconciliation requires sustained public education and dialogue, including youth engagement, about the history and legacy of residential schools, Treaties, and Indigenous rights, as well as the historical and contemporary contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canadian society.

As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and rivers flow,

Brian Bowman
Mayor
City of Winnipeg

Doug McNeil
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Winnipeg