



City of Ottawa
Aboriginal Working Committee
AWC • OTTAWA • CEQ
Le Comité d'étude,
sur les questions autochtones
de la ville d'Ottawa



Reconciliation Action Plan



Rae-Anna Whiteduck from Kitigan Zibi performing at
Aboriginal Awareness Day, 2015.



Inuit Throat Singers Samantha Kigutaq-Metcalf and
Cailyn DeGrandpre performing at Aboriginal Awareness
Day, 2018.



“Whenever people come together in a group it is about relationships. Everything is about relationships.”

- Elder Jim Albert



Aboriginal Awareness Day, 2017.



Land Recognition

We recognize that Ottawa is located on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation.



Land Acknowledgement Reconnaissance du territoire

Odàwàng ki ombàkonigàde ega wikàd kà migiwàniwang Màmìwinini Aishinàbe-waki.

Pimàdizig Màmìwinini Anishinàbeg kàgigekamig ki abig ondaje aking.
Odanishinàbewiziwiniwà obimàdjiwowiniwà ogi nanegàdjichigàdànàwà
nanàj ako nongom iyo abinàs.

Kichi Odenaw Odàwàng okikàdjiyàwàn pimàdizin Màmìwinini Anishinàben
kaye okikàdjitònàwà iyo aki.

Ottawa is built on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe territory.

The peoples of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation have lived on this territory for millennia. Their culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this place.

The City of Ottawa honours the peoples and the land of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation.

Ottawa est bâtie sur un territoire non cédé de la Nation algonquine Anishinabe.

Les peuples de la Nation algonquine Anishinabe vivent dans ce lieu depuis des millénaires. Leur culture et leur présence l'ont imprégné et l'imprègnent encore.

La Ville d'Ottawa rend hommage aux peuples et au territoire de la Nation algonquine Anishinabe.



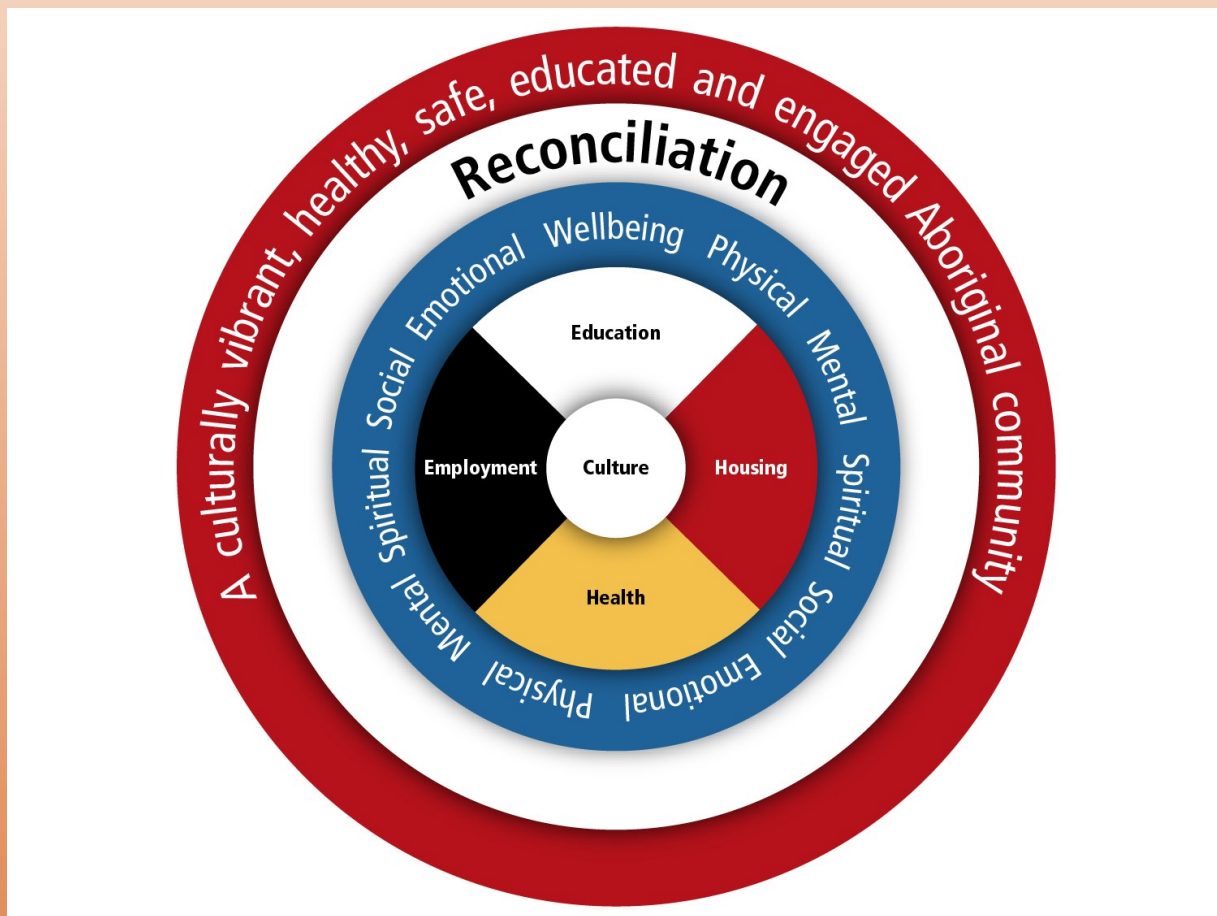
We extend our respect to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples for their valuable past and present contributions to this land. We also recognize and respect the cultural diversity that First Nations, Inuit and Métis people bring to the city of Ottawa.



Aboriginal Working Committee

The Aboriginal Working Committee (AWC) is a formal partnership between the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (a group of Indigenous community organizations) as well as non-Indigenous community organizations and City staff. The AWC works together with the community to address emerging issues and improve City services for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

The work of the AWC serves as the foundation for our reconciliation journey. In 2017, the AWC adopted a working model with the integrated focus on reconciliation. Reconciliation is a destination, and at the same time, a way of working together on achieving a collective vision. The model integrates the areas of service priority for urban Indigenous communities in Ottawa, and is grounded in culture as the centre.



AWC Working Model



Reconciliation Action Plan

In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its findings and 94 Calls to Action to redress the residential schools legacy and advance the reconciliation process in Canada. The Calls to Action are directed at municipalities as well as other levels of government, the private sector and to Canadians as a whole.

In 2018, Ottawa City Council made a formal commitment to reconciliation and approved the City's first **Reconciliation Action Plan**. This plan contains 14 actions that speak specifically to the **TRC Calls to Action** and reflect the **Principles of Reconciliation**. The Plan is built on trust, relationships and collaboration between the City, the Indigenous communities in Ottawa, Algonquin Host Nations, and many community partners.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) and the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) are also responding the TRC Calls to Action and Principles. Both are part of the Aboriginal Working Committee and report on implementation progress through the AWC.



Senator Murray Sinclair speaking at Aboriginal Awareness Day, 2016.



Culture



Rae-Anna Whiteduck from Kitigan Zibi performing at Aboriginal Awareness Day, 2015.

1. Complete and launch an Algonquin Anishinabe Civic Cultural Protocol.
2. Establish a permanent presence of the Algonquin Anishinabe Host Nation Flags in Council Chambers and in Marion Dewar Plaza at Ottawa City Hall.
3. Participate in the development of a “Reconciling History” Walking Tour spearheaded by First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, with Indigenous community members and other public and private sector partners.
4. Develop a process to respectfully acquire and display art from Indigenous artists into the City of Ottawa Art Collection.
5. Encourage the use and visibility of Indigenous languages.
6. Identify and set priorities for allocating cultural funding to support initiatives from the public, which contribute to the reconciliation process.
7. Create Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training modules for municipal staff and elected officials.
8. Engage Algonquin Anishinabe Nation, First Nations, Inuit and Métis representatives in the development of the City of Ottawa’s Commemoration Policy. The policy will also explore a Naming Process for rooms in municipal buildings to honour Algonquin Anishinabe Host Nation, First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and languages.



Employment

9. Implement specific strategies to increase the number of Aboriginal people employed at the City of Ottawa, through:

- a. New culturally meaningful outreach and recruitment;
- b. Promoting best practices in hiring and selection of Aboriginal Peoples through the City's Diversity and Inclusion Program; and
- c. Increasing the number of employment and skills building information sessions to Aboriginal students and adults to increase awareness of City employment opportunities.



Frazer Lee Whiteduck an Ojibway, Onondaga raised Algonquin of Sheguiandah First Nation and Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, with Deanna Schofield (from Diversity Champion Program), 2015.



Children's Services

10. Integrated System Planning led by local Indigenous child care and child and family service providers. This includes planning to address needs, gaps and opportunities for new or enhanced culturally responsive and Indigenous-led programs and services for Indigenous children and families in Ottawa.



Aboriginal Awareness Day, 2016.

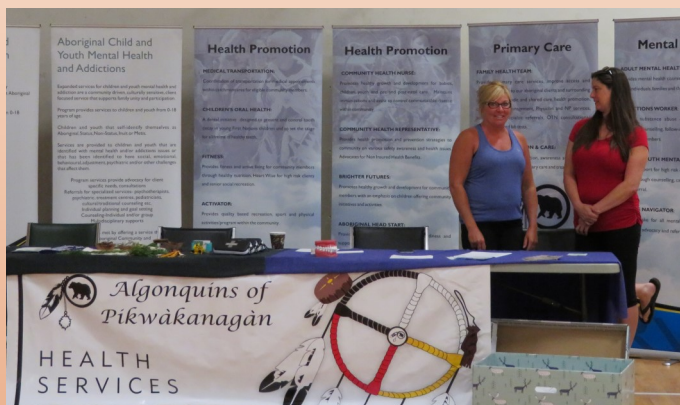


Aboriginal Awareness Day, 2018.



Education and Awareness Building

11. City departments participate on the Aboriginal Working Committee.
12. Promote a standard process to honour Algonquin Unceded Territory at the opening of City events.
13. Provide cultural awareness and learning opportunities each year to help City departments build capacity to deliver culturally appropriate services.
14. Host annual Aboriginal Awareness Day learning and awareness-raising event to commemorate National Indigenous Peoples Day.

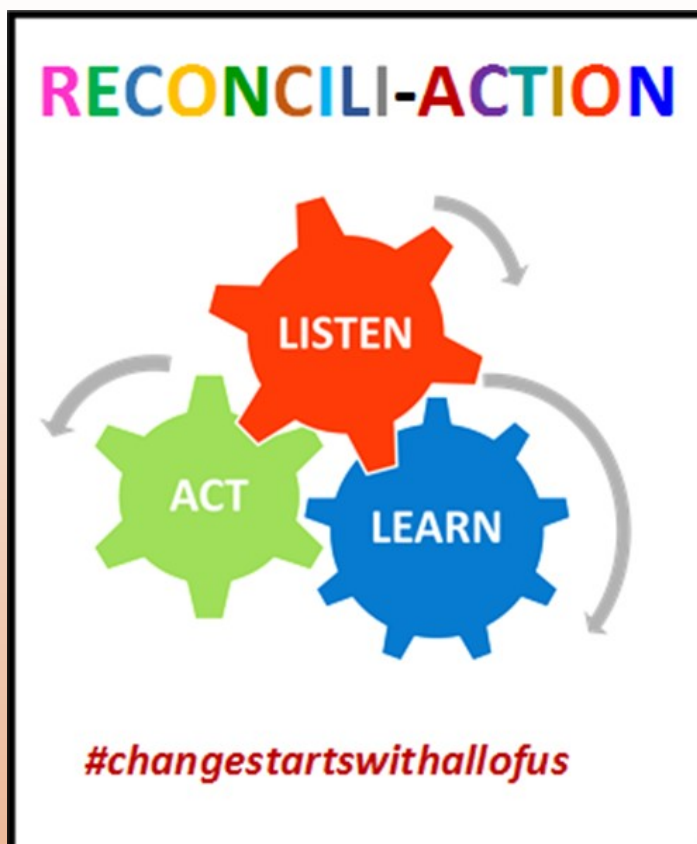


Cultural visit to Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, 2018.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is committed to advancing Indigenous health equity through actions that promote reconciliation. The **OPH Reconcili-ACTION Plan** was developed in consultation with OPH employees and Indigenous community partners. Designed to formally respond to the health-related Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action, the Plan was validated by Indigenous Elders and approved by the **Board of Health** in June 2018.

Key actions in 2017 and 2018 include:

- Making **traditional land acknowledgment** statements as a common practice at OPH meetings and events;
- Promoting **more inclusive and culturally safe spaces** for First Nations, Inuit and Métis clients and employees by including Indigenous art;
- **Raising awareness** about the ongoing impact of colonization through: all-staff, public, and student presentations; Board of Health reports; Grand Rounds sessions; social media; and knowledge exchanges with other health care providers;
- OPH employees and Board of Health members have participated in multiple **Indigenous cultural safety learning opportunities**; and
- With the commitment and support of the OAC, Akausivik Inuit Family Health Team, OPH, Ottawa-based hospitals and other community-based health service agencies, activities have taken place to assist in the development of an **Ottawa Indigenous Health Strategy**.



Next Steps: Strengthening an OPH-wide team of Reconcili-ACTION champions, more cultural safety training for OPH employees and Board of Health, and the collaborative development of an innovative evaluation framework that captures the spirit of reconciliation.

In 2016, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) established a committee to review the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

Ottawa Public Library (OPL) has recognized Ottawa's Indigenous communities as key groups and partners. It strives to work collaboratively with Indigenous literary artists to plan and deliver meaningful services and collections to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.

The publication of CFLA's Report on the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Actions has provided a framework by which staff can validate the work done to date, and acknowledge that the road to reconciliation is a journey with opportunities to reframe service design and delivery.

OPL's Actions are detailed in their February 13, 2018 report to Council entitled: **Ottawa Public Library Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.**



OPL hosted a reconciliation tour with residential school survivor, Margaret Pokiak-Fenton and her daughter-in-law, Christy Jordan-Fenton, who has written about Margaret's experiences in several books.

Moving Forward



Some initiatives in the Plan will be explored further in partnership with Indigenous community partners, senior City management and political leaders, which include:

- Consider an Ottawa specific Council Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation.
- Establish an annual dialogue/meeting between municipal elected officials, leaders and Indigenous Elders, including the Algonquin First Nations. The intent of this dialogue is to build relationships, share perspectives and inform decision-making. The format and official membership of the dialogue will be developed in partnership with local Aboriginal community stakeholders.
- Identify and repurpose highly visible dedicated spaces at Ottawa City Hall and other municipal buildings and public spaces for commemoration, education, and awareness within both traditional and contemporary contexts.

The City will engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous service partners through the Aboriginal Working Committee to advance the Reconciliation Action Plan. This may include introducing new initiatives over time.



Visit to Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, 2018.



AWC Members

Chair, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition; General Manager, Community and Social Services, City of Ottawa; Representatives from organizations that form the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Gignul Non-Profit Housing, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Minwaashin Lodge, Makonsag Head Start, Tewegan Transition House, Madowan Development Centre, Kagita Mikam, and Koki Mino-Miikan Nosawadon); Representatives from Ottawa Public Health; Ottawa Public Library; Ottawa Police Service; United Way Ottawa; Crime Prevention Ottawa; Champlain Local Health Integration Network; Children's Aid Society of Ottawa; Ottawa Carleton District School Board; and Ottawa Catholic School Board.



Aboriginal Awareness Day Proclamation, 2018.



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Chi-Miigwetch

Nia:wen

Qujannamiik

Thank you

Merci

Thank you to all members of the AWC, community partners, Council, and city staff who have contributed to this first step in our shared reconciliation journey.