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Response to the TRC Calls to Action

Formal Declaration of Support



MVAEC

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council 04-
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Rights of Indigenous People of Canada – Metro Vancouver

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) stands in solidarity with the entire Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action document. In particular, MVAEC will advocate for, and implement in all of our affairs, the following two articles,

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The TRC Calls to Action are compatible with MVAEC Mission, Purpose, and Responsibility Statements, which are as follows;

Mission Statement

MVAEC is a unified voice of Aboriginal Organizations, who strategically plan, advocate and positively influence outcomes that strengthen the service delivery and policies that impact our Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Community.

Purpose

The purposes of the Society are:

1. Address, in a cooperative manner through coalition building and sector representation, matters affecting the holistic well-being of Aboriginal people living in the Metro Vancouver urban area.
2. Preserve and promote the diverse cultural identity of Aboriginal people and promote and implement best practices in culturally appropriate delivery of programs, services, management, and administration.
3. Develop positive public relations that foster and support the strengths, inclusiveness, beliefs and values of Aboriginal people through protocol agreements, networks, associations, and partnerships with service organizations, Aboriginal political organizations, government departments, and private sectors.



4. Respecting, understanding, and supporting the unique role of Elders and their contribution to the development and management of programs and services.
5. Encourage and support the participation and mentorship of Aboriginal youth, especially those who are already involved in program and service delivery.
6. Develop information and communication networks within MVAEC and with the broader community serving Metro Vancouver Aboriginal people.
7. To be meaningfully engaged as advisors and partners to all levels of government, their departments, and ministries on matters related to urban Aboriginal programs and services for the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Community.
8. Promote, strengthen, and advocate for resource equity and sustainability for Aboriginal organizations, including wage parity and benefits.
9. Provide a working forum where Executive Directors or equivalent can come together to support, mentor, train, and foster good working relations with one another through the sharing of resources.
10. Develop and promote best practice governance models within Aboriginal service delivery organizations, including supporting Council and leadership development

Responsibility

The primary responsibility of this Society is to ensure the following:

1. Meaningful community involvement and input in the process/vision
2. Incorporation of culturally appropriate practices in all aspects
3. Commitment to transparency, inclusiveness and accountability
4. A pro-active, solutions based approach

The intent is to provide advocacy for the needs of the Metro Vancouver urban Aboriginal community under a community coalition of partner organizations and to enhance relations among non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal municipal, regional, provincial, and federal offices to build human resource capacity and provide holistic supports.

These goals will be achieved through:

1. Advocacy
2. Capacity Development
3. Unity
4. Collaboration



MVAEC Roundtables

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council was incorporated as a society in 2009 and includes 23 Aboriginal organizations representing a diverse range of programs, services, and mandates across Metro Vancouver.

MVAEC has developed six Round Tables to strategically address high priority community needs in order to help reduce disparities in standards of living and quality of life between the urban Aboriginal population and other citizens of Metro Vancouver. Each Table is chaired by an MVAEC Council member and operates under a terms of reference. Tables consist of MVAEC members who work in the area, supported by invited community members, organizations, and other partners who share interest in the priority area and are willing to contribute their time, skills, and knowledge. The Chair of each Table regularly reports back to the Council, and all major decisions are brought as recommendations to Council to discuss, assess, and decide upon.

Arts, Language, and Culture

Education, Training, and Employment

Housing & Homelessness

Children, Youth, and Families

Health & Wellness

Justice

Through the roundtables MVAEC is creating a policy environment where there is the political will to act on the TRC Calls to Action in partnership agreements and allied work with other urban Aboriginal organizations, and non-Aboriginal organizations. MVAEC translate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP): The Business Reference Guide to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, into context suitable for non-profit, government, and private sector organizations. Agreements will reflect,

All businesses should take the following fundamental actions, some of which may be required in conjunction with local and State governments to meet their responsibility to respect indigenous peoples' rights:

1. Adopt and implement a formal policy (whether on a stand-alone basis or within a broader human rights policy) addressing indigenous peoples' rights and committing the business to respect indigenous peoples' rights.

2. Conduct human rights due diligence to assess actual or potential adverse impacts on indigenous peoples' rights, integrate findings and take action, track and communicate externally on performance.



3. Consult in good faith with indigenous peoples in relation to all matters that may affect them or their rights.

4. Commit to obtain (and maintain) the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples for projects that affect their rights, in line with the spirit of the UN

Declaration.

5. Establish or cooperate through legitimate processes to remediate any adverse impacts on indigenous peoples' rights.

6. Establish or cooperate with an effective and culturally appropriate grievance mechanism.

These fundamental actions are important to ensure respect for the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples. Each fundamental action, and suggested approaches for implementing it, is discussed in detail in the remainder of Part I.

Note: While some of these actions naturally build on others, this list should not be seen as a flow chart or steps to be taken in the order provided above. For example, before developing a policy on indigenous peoples' rights, it is recommended that business engage with relevant indigenous peoples in order to involve them in the policy development process. Many of these actions will be iterative and ongoing.

MVAEC will implement the TRC Calls to Action through a Collective Impact Structure model. . A Collective Impact Structure is where a collective of organizations come together to bring about broad social changes. It is different from individual impact, which is defined as “countless non-profit, business, and government organizations each work to address social problems independently” from each other. The results usually being more incremental over the long-term.

The Collective Impact Structure functions on five agreed upon conditions: (1) Collective agenda (2) Shared measurement (3) Mutually reinforcing activities (4) Continuous communication of meeting policy goals and objectives (5) Backbone support.

The process for implementing the TRC Calls to Action and the Collective Impact Structure will unfold in a semi-structured process at roundtable meetings. The MVAEC Board of Directors, Council Membership, and roundtable participations will be able to claim their vested interested in participation in the roundtable, along with the desired outcomes that will benefit their organization and target population(s).



<u>Collective Impact Contributions</u>	<u>Roundtable Member's Responsibility</u>
<p>Common Agenda</p>	<p>All participants have a shared vision for change, including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions.</p> <p>A. Definition of a single social problem that requires a collective effort to change, e.g.</p> <p>Social Problem</p> <p><i>The urban Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver experiences disproportionate access to housing</i></p> <p>Collective Impact Solution</p> <p><i>Build 1,500 housing units by 2020 for the urban Aboriginal population</i></p> <p>I. Definition of a single social problem is based on input from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The urban Aboriginal population in the Metro Vancouver area (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) ii. Organizational leadership and commitment. Meaning roundtable participants have consulted with the organization(s) that they represent, and have express permission and directives to continue participating in the MVAEC Roundtable process; iii. Allies of the urban Aboriginal population



	<p>B. Organizational Commitment</p> <p>I. Board/Volunteer commitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Do the board and its members understand and support the process?ii. Are there board committees in place?iii. Are they active?iv. Can they take on the role? <p>II. Staff commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Does staff understand and support the process?ii. Is staff available and committed to the project?iii. Does staff have knowledge of process?iv. Can staff lead the project? <p>III. Community commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Does the community understand and support the process?ii. Are there people to serve on special or standing committeesiii. Develop terms of reference which outlines organization's expectations and reporting mechanisms <p>C. Government Commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Acknowledgement, adoption, and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Canada Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Commit to ongoing implementation of UNDRIP and the Calls to Action with the urban Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver iii. Consult with the urban Aboriginal population on defining Indigenous criteria for rights and reconciliation, and accommodate through social and structural change through multi-level government policy iv. Strategically plan outputs and outcomes with the MVAEC Council. Share analysis at an annual MVAEC policy conference.
<p>Shared Measurement</p>	<p>MVAEC, partners, and allies serve a large urban Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver. Apart from contributing to the development of political will, and bringing about social and structural change through UNDRIP and the TRC, MVAEC recognizes that non-Aboriginal organizations increasingly depend on empirical data for administration. In order to facilitate empirical driven processes, MVAEC requires that partners and allies share their data where possible. Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned.</p> <p>The use of social indicators can be beneficial to MVAEC initiatives, because social indicators are complex enough to have the potential to be universal across the diverse fields that the MVAEC membership work in. Under proper coordination and facilitation, and through the MVAEC roundtables, there is incredible to potential to address a diversity of issues through a</p>



	<p>common agenda and shared measurements.</p> <p>A. Social indicators should¹:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Reflect a particular social idea II. Be valid and meaningful III. Sensitive to the underlying phenomenon IV. Summary in nature V. When human resources are available in MVAEC social networks, make social indicators available as a time series. Provide with time series analysis training to bolster communication among stake holders participating in collective impact strategies VI. Able to be disaggregated VII. Easily interpretable VIII. Relatable to other indicators, where appropriate <p>B. Outputs and Outcomes of Social Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Ensure that organizations involved in collective impact strategies share inter-organization policies that may be reflected in Terms of Reference, Human Resource, and Communications & Marketing policies.
<p>Mutually Reinforcing Activities</p>	<p>Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define a single goal for organizations to work towards achieving outcomes and indicators together



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance wrap-around services and shared data collection between MVAEC Roundtables: (1) Arts, Language, and Culture; (2) Children, Youth, and Families (3) Housing & Homelessness (4) Health & Wellness, and (5) Education, Training, and Employment (6) Justice
<p>Continuous Communication</p>	<p>Consistent and open communication is needed across the many players to build trust, assure achievement of mutual objectives, and to create and maintain common motivation.</p>
<p>Backbone Support</p>	<p>Creating and managing collective impact requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinate participating organizations and agencies.</p>

¹ Noll, H.-H. *Social Indicators and Quality of Life Research: Background, Achievements and Current Trends.*