

**Request for Council's Consideration**

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b><br>(Submitted to Municipal<br>Clerk's Office by Noon<br>Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b><br>(Submitted to Municipal<br>Clerk's Office by Noon<br>Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b> |
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**Date of Council Meeting: December 8, 2015**

**Subject: Statement of Reconciliation from Halifax Regional Council**

**Motion for Council to Consider:**

Halifax Regional Council recognizes the significance of the undertaking of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) with the release of the TRC's final report and its recommendations. It took many decades of advocacy by residential school survivors to establish the Commission, and the several years of gathering testimony, evidence and developing recommendations have been a difficult and exhausting process for survivors and Commissioners alike.

We recognize the deep and lasting traumatic impact that Canada's Indian Residential Schools had on individuals, their families, and communities both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. The history of these schools is one of pain and gross injustice that requires us all to make ongoing and concerted efforts to learn the truth about residential schools, acknowledge this history and its modern legacies in our cities and begin a shared journey of reconciliation.

Many Aboriginal people now living in Canada's largest cities continue to grapple with the most severe consequences of the intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools – but we are committed to supporting and delivering real change, working together with Aboriginal leaders.

Today we declare that we stand with Canada's big city mayors and with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and commit ourselves to learning from the lessons of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and taking action to ensure the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people are fully acknowledged in the great cities we seek to build.

We stand together today in committing to a new equal partnership with Aboriginal people in Canada; one based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect.

**Reason:**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report earlier this year. A strong working relationship between Halifax Regional Municipality and Mi'kmaw and other aboriginal residents is important. Regional Councillors have participated in many events involving aboriginal communities, including last year's Annual General Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations in Halifax.

This is an issue that plays out in every city across Canada, and the overall Reconciliation initiative has been incredibly powerful in bringing people together across the country. To this end, Halifax Regional Council passing a Statement of Reconciliation could be an important step forward.

More concretely, several of the TRC's 94 recommendations have implications for municipalities. The Big City Mayors' Caucus (BCMC) recently launched an Aboriginal Partnership and Reconciliation Working Group with a mandate to identify recommendations from the TRC final report upon which municipalities can take action.

**Outcome Sought:**

As the Office of Diversity & Inclusion develops a work plan, which includes a focussed consultation with aboriginal people, this motion is to provide a mandate and direction to support the BCMC working group, and to incorporate an urban-aboriginal strategy into the work plan of the Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

Mayor Mike Savage	
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