

RECONCILIATION OAK BAY



January 2024

ReconciliACTION Oak Bay is a network of organizations committed to:

- Forging community to community relationships with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations
- Taking concrete action to advance Reconciliation in our community and build a just future together

We are animated by the spirit of the Sno'uyutth Welcome Pole at Oak Bay High School to "spread good energy" towards a new relationship with the Lək̓ʷəŋən people in whose territory Oak Bay is located.

We support public engagement and action around Truth-Telling and Reconciliation. We seek, through collaboration and partnership, to create local momentum on the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We support and encourage Oak Bay Council to fulfill its commitments to explore "more meaningful and collaborative ongoing working relationships with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations," "advance local initiatives and projects that achieve the goals and principles of Reconciliation," and "adopt and implement" the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Our activities include:

- Establishing **respectful relationships** with the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations
- Working to persuade Council to begin a **new process** to determine the future of the publicly owned Spewhung/Oak Bay marina buildings, lands and waters through meaningful and respectful conversations with the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations
- Organizing **public ceremonies** to recognize the Sept. 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Hosting an interactive KAIROS **Blanket Exercise** to start a conversation about the current and historical relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and an all-candidates forum focused on Reconciliation
- Planning **public initiatives** such as an "Oak Bay Reads Reconciliation" book program, a community based research course on Indigenous topics at UVic, and a new community green map based on a version co-produced with the Songhees Nation

The ReconciliACTION Oak Bay Network is: Community Association of Oak Bay • St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church • Oak Bay United Church • Oak Bay Heritage Foundation • UVic Living Lab Network • Canadian Heritage Arts Society • Vancouver Island Trail Association • Friends of Bowker Creek • Oak Bay Climate Force • ReconciliACTION Cadboro Bay (sister organization) • St. Philip Anglican Church • Friends of Uplands Park

JOIN US BY JOINING ONE OF OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS!



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OAK BAY COUNCIL RECONCILIATION-RELATED MOTIONS & COMMITMENTS SINCE 2021

MARCH 22, 2021: PLACE-NAMING AND ADVANCING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

2021-099 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

WHEREAS the District of Oak Bay (the District) is situated on the traditional territory of the Coast and Strait Salish Peoples, specifically, the Lekwungen Peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations,

AND WHEREAS the District is committed to exploring more meaningful and collaborative ongoing working relationships with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, within the context of Indigenous Reconciliation,

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT Oak Bay seeks guidance from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on adding Lekwungen place-names within the District;

AND THAT the District further works with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on how the District and the Nations can advance local initiatives and projects that achieve the goals and principles of Reconciliation and ultimately bring our communities closer together.

Status?: Has there been any significant work done to advance this motion?

NOVEMBER 29, 2021: REVIEWING HISTORICAL PLAQUES WITH A RECONCILIATION LENS

2021-345 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

THAT staff develop an inventory of all plaques and monuments within the District.

2021-346 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

THAT the 1925 municipal plaque in Walbran Park be reviewed with the intent of considering its replacement in light of the federal review of their plaque on the same site;

AND THAT the review process be informed by and developed in conjunction with the Council Strategic Initiative "First Nations Relationship Building".

Status?: The inventory was created in February 2022 but has not yet been released publicly. How is work proceeding?

FEBRUARY 14, 2022: ADOPTING UNDRIP AND CREATING A RECONCILIATION TASK FORCE

2022-121 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

WHEREAS Section 43 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls upon the 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;

AND WHEREAS the Province of B.C. formally adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through legislation in November, 2019;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Section 43 of the Calls to Action be adopted in principle as a framework for implementing reconciliation;

AND THAT Staff publish adoption of, and references related to the Declaration Act and actions towards implementation on the District website;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT District Staff bring forward Terms of Reference to establish a Task Force to bring forward recommendations for collaborating and unifying District Committees and Community Associations and Committees on building paths to reconciliation with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, in a manner that is respectful to First Nations and resource capacity.

Status?: Is this motion being implemented?

MARCH 15, 2022: DEVELOPING A SHARED VISION FOR SITCHANALTH (WILLOWS BEACH)

Oak Bay Council and Songhees Council announce a shared approach to developing a vision for Willows Beach (Sitchanalth)—a “Sitchanalth / Willows Shared Knowledge Project.” The Province’s 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program will fund \$40,000 of the estimated \$50,000 project.

“One intention of the initiative is that the shared learning will inform how the District and the Songhees First Nation can together manage future land use changes....The project will develop a shared understanding of the site to enable an inclusive approach to change management to the benefit of the Songhees First Nation, the District and people across the region.”

“Oak Bay Council is actively looking to support reconciliation, and this initiative is an exciting opportunity to work on an area identified as a priority by one of our First Nations neighbours,” stated Oak Bay Mayor Kevin Murdoch. “We recognize reconciliation is an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships, and this is just one step in developing the relationship between our communities. We look forward to working cooperatively and allowing the opportunity for shared knowledge to inform future land use decisions.”

The Sitchanalth / Willows Shared Knowledge Project is expected to start this spring [2022] with the selection of a facilitator and joint development of the project framework. The project will conclude prior to July 30, 2024.

Status?: Is this project underway?

MARCH 28, 2022: A COMMUNITY RESOURCE TOOL AND OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY

2022—233 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

THAT the report entitled “Truth and Reconciliation in Oak Bay—Community Resource Tool and Potential Opportunities Summary” authored by Selina Williams, Director of Corporate Services and dated March 28, 2022 be received.

2022—234 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

THAT the proposed approach for an initial phase of work that includes development of a Truth and Reconciliation Community Resource Tool and Potential Opportunities Summary, as outlined in the staff report, be approved;

AND THAT the Mayor be requested to appoint two Council Liaisons to undertake the scope of work as proposed in the staff report;

AND FURTHER, THAT staff contact the Administration of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to invite participation in this initiative as may be deemed appropriate by the respective Nations.

Status?: The “Task force” (see Feb. 14 motion above) was dissolved in April 2023. How is this motion now being implemented?

JULY 18, 2022: AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE ON 5-YEAR LEASE EXTENSION FOR SPEWHUNG

“The District of Oak Bay and Oak Bay Marine Group (OBMG) have reached agreement-in-principle on a five-year lease extension (2023-27) for operation of the Oak Bay Marina....

The five-year extension will provide time for more fulsome exploration of longer-term approaches to the site to create a lasting positive community legacy.

“As the District prepares for next steps, Council will be guided by community values including dialogue with the original Peoples of the ləkʷəŋən Territory towards advancing strong relationships, prosperity, and stewardship of lands and waters” says Mayor Kevin Murdoch. “

Status?: The first year of the agreement has passed. Has the work (and process) to determine the long-term future begun?

OCTOBER 14, 2022: OAK BAY AND OAK BAY MARINE GROUP SIGN 5-YEAR LEASE FOR SPEWHUNG

"The District of Oak Bay and Oak Bay Marine Group (OBMG) have signed a five-year lease (2023-27) for operation of the Oak Bay Marina....

The five-year lease will allow for continued marina services at the site while also providing time for fulsome discussion of longer term uses, with the aim of creating a lasting positive community legacy and nurturing a successful, long-term working relationship with neighbouring First Nations in the spirit and intent of Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation."

"I look forward to working with the next Council, neighbouring First Nations, and the community to collaboratively explore and advance longer-term approaches to the site." [says Mayor Kevin Murdoch.]

Status?: Is the current agreement operating in a way that is consistent with a commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation and building relationships with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations?

JUNE 26, 2023: SPEWHUNG CONSULTATION WITH THE NATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY

2023–289 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

THAT the report titled "Marina Inspection Studies", authored by Signe Bagh, Director of Strategic Initiatives, dated June 26, 2023 be received.

2023–291 MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

THAT staff provide a report outlining options for next steps in connection with future use considerations on the Turkey Head property in consultation with the community and first nations.

Status?: Is the report on a proposed consultation process that was to have come to Council in September 2023 expected in the near future?

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO OAK BAY

From volume 6 the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission pp. 15-17

#6 “All Canadians as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.”

#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 Aboriginal rights, as well as the historical and contemporary contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian society.

Together Canadians must do more than just talk about reconciliation; we must learn how to practice reconciliation in our everyday lives—within ourselves and our families, and in our communities, governments, places of worship, schools, and workplaces. To do so constructively, Canadians must remain committed to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships....”

CALL TO ACTION #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.