

14.0 Reconciliation

14.1 CONTEXT

View Royal approaches reconciliation as a long-term priority grounded in relationship-building, learning, collaboration, accountability, and action. View Royal is committed to integrating a reconciliation-centric approach to current and future Town initiatives. This includes recognizing the impacts of colonization on the community as it is today and acknowledging the injustices experienced by the Indigenous Peoples whose lands the Town is located upon. It will take time and commitment for View Royal to advance decolonizing practices and build respectful, meaningful relationships with the X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations.

Given the influence of OCPs on long-term community initiatives and decision-making processes, this section focuses on practical and achievable policy direction to support ongoing reconciliation, collaboration, partnership, and relationship-building initiatives with the X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations so that community planning and priorities reflect the enduring presence and stewardship of the lək^wəŋən Peoples.

The following OCP Goals may be achieved through the policy direction provided in this section:

- Community Well-Being
- Economic Development
- Reconciliation
- Regional Partnerships



14.2 OBJECTIVES

14.2.1 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS AND RECONCILIATION IN DECISION-MAKING

Build respectful, government-to-government relationships with the X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations, and integrate reconciliation frameworks into Town community planning initiatives, particularly for decisions impacting the Nations' interests and self-determination goals.

14.2.2 INDIGENOUS PRESENCE, IDENTITY, AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION

Recognize, respect, and enhance the presence of Indigenous peoples by promoting an inclusive atmosphere for those identifying as Indigenous in View Royal, and ensure that representation of Indigenous communities reflects their historical, continuing, and enduring significance within the community.

14.3 POLICIES

14.3.1 GENERAL

- A. Identify a joint vision for reconciliation in View Royal in partnership with the X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations.
- B. Continue to develop and implement existing Memorandums of Understanding and/or protocol agreements with the X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations around shared commitments.

14.3.2 COMMITMENT TO CULTURAL AWARENESS AND LEARNING

- A. Align municipal policies with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples & the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to ensure Indigenous rights are explicitly recognized.
- B. Work with X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations to identify and deliver appropriate public education and reconciliation programming for View Royal residents and staff.
- C. Respect Indigenous data governance and sovereignty including through application of principles for Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession of data principles, and collaborate with X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations on municipally based data gathering.

14.3.3 ADVANCING RECONCILIATION IN LAND USE DECISIONS

- A. Proactively engage and collaborate meaningfully with X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations on land use initiatives and decisions by which they may be affected to respect rights recognition and shared decision making.
- B. Promote awareness of the responsibility of property owners to protect archeological sites and artifacts, including those of Indigenous significance, and encourage compliance under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

14.3.4 UNDERSTANDING INDIGENOUS LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Work with X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations to learn about Indigenous land and water stewardship practices, values, and rights. Collaborate to integrate Indigenous knowledge systems with Western science for habitat restoration, culturally informed ecological management, resilient food systems, and conservation of natural assets.

14.3.5 SUPPORTING ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION AND RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Collaborate with X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations to identify and pursue opportunities for Indigenous led land and economic development initiatives, such as Nation-led housing, mixed use, and economic projects.

Support Indigenous-led economic initiatives through locally-forged business partnerships with X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations and support Indigenous business development and Indigenous development corporations.

14.3.6 CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS IDENTITY WITHIN VIEW ROYAL

Expand Indigenous cultural representation in public space, by supporting public art from X^wsepsəm and Songhees artists, seeking opportunities for Indigenous naming of parks, facilities, and streets, and exploring opportunities to develop interpretive materials co authored with X^wsepsəm and Songhees Nations to reflect the current presence of lək^wənən People.