
Memorandum

FOR COUNCIL MEETING

January 21, 2021

(open)

ITEM: 4.8

To: Council

Kathleen Kurtin	Farida Abu-Bakare
J. William Birdsell	Heather Breeze
Donald Chen	Barry Cline
Gordon Erskine	Paul Hastings
Jennifer King	Natasha Krickhan
Jeffrey Laberge	Michelle Longlade
Agata Mancini	Lara J. McKendrick
Elaine Mintz	Deo M. Paquette
Kristiana Schuhmann	Gaganjot Singh
Susan Speigel	Andrew Thomson
Settimo Vilardi	

From: Truth & Reconciliation Work Group

Co-Chair, Natasha Krickhan
Co-Chair, John Stephenson
Brian Porter
Dani Kastelein
Louis-Pierre Belec
Larissa Roque
Calvin Brook
Eladia Smoke
Edward Winter

Date: January 11, 2021

Subject: **Final Report and Recommendations of the Truth & Reconciliation Working Group**

Objective: For Council to receive the final report of the Truth & Reconciliation Task Group and consider further action regarding the recommendations presented.

In December 2018, as a result of a roundtable discussion focused on indigenous culture, architecture and architects Council established a Working Group with the following mandate: “...to explore and recommend a means to establishing an OAA De-Colonialization for Architecture Project that will examine the current professional regulatory landscape and consider actions that the OAA might take to encourage the evolution of the profession and practice of Architecture in Ontario towards the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission”.

The Working Group has been reporting regularly to Council as it conducted its work. The last report was presented to Council at the September Meeting. Since

that time the group is happy to report that two Indigenous cultural competency training days called “Bimickaway” (translating to “footsteps in the sand”) were organized and presented by the Ministry of the Attorney General. Over 35 people attended in total which included OAA Councillors, Staff and members of the OAA Truth & Reconciliation working group. The sessions were facilitated by two indigenous presenters as well as 2 non-indigenous individuals. The training was well received and ended with attendees being asked to sign a commitment to Reconciliation (Personal and/or Professional). It is hoped that the second part of the training (The Blanket Ceremony) can be conducted later in 2021 when in-person meetings can resume.

Council will recall that Indigenous Architectural Graduate, Dani Kastelien was engaged over the summer months to conduct an Environmental Scan which would assemble and synthesize documents and resources created by other organizations that are focused on Truth & Reconciliation. A preliminary draft was presented by Kastelien to Council at the September 2020 meeting. That document is being finalized now and the Working Group recommends that it be made available on the OAA Website as a resource for members and the public.

The Working Group met on November 26 to finalize the recommendations that would be presented to Council. The recommendations are based on the *Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action* that the working group felt most aligned with the OAA’s mandate and *Architect’s Act*. The full Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action can be found [here](#). Other background material relating to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada can be found [here](#).

The following Recommendations of the Working Group are presented for Council’s consideration:

1. Create a standing OAA Committee dedicated to enacting the Calls to Action identified by the Truth and Reconciliation’s working group as aligning with the OAA’s mandate and the *Architects Act*. The OAA’s Truth and Reconciliation Committee is to have at least one Indigenous teacher, invited by the OAA, and at least one Indigenous architecture student and at least one Indigenous architect. It should also include a Vice President of Council and preferably, the Councillor who leads the Sustainable Built Environments Committee. It can include interested members of the working group and members of the OAA and other Indigenous activists, leaders, and artists. The committee should be chaired or co-chaired by one of its Indigenous members.
2. Hire a Consultant (preference for an Indigenous Consultant) to help the OAA’s Truth and Reconciliation Committee develop a curriculum for training regarding awareness and education for our membership that

marries Indigenous Cultural Competency Training with skills development for the profession of architecture.

3. Hire a Consultant (preference for an Indigenous Consultant) to help create an outline for a terms of reference for the OAA's Truth and Reconciliation Committee.
4. That "Bimickaway" and other Indigenous cultural competency training such as was provided by the Ministry of the Attorney General and to be developed by the Consultant in conjunction with the OAA's T&R committee that a member receives, be accepted as ConEd credits by the OAA at one credit per each hour up to a maximum of six credits per calendar year.
5. That OAA members fund a scholarship for Indigenous students to study architecture or architectural technology at University or at the College Level. The scholarship would help to pay for their tuition at the Undergraduate and Masters level.
6. That the OAA and OAA members advocate that all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal institutional buildings (Hospitals, Post-secondary colleges and universities, elementary schools, high schools, municipal libraries, museums, early child care learning centres, municipally run daycares, elderly nursing homes, congregate living homes, prisons) and buildings associated with transit projects (transit stations) which receive taxpayer funding (including those managed by Infrastructure Ontario, Metrolinx, the TTC, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation etc.) include spaces and/or markers to reflect and respect the traditional occupation of those lands by Indigenous cultures and to facilitate cultural awareness.
7. That the OAA and OAA members hire a consultant to develop a best practice guideline for land recognition ceremonies at various phases of a building project including starting a construction project and for the incorporation of indigenous place-making into the design process.

Action: Council is requested to consider the following actions and provide further direction:

1. Receive the final Report presented by the Truth Reconciliation Work Group to Council on January 21, 2021
2. Direct that the Environmental Scan document be published on the OAA Website and used as an ongoing resource tool for the OAA, Members and the public.
3. That Council bring forward the final Recommendations of the Working Group as noted above to the February Council planning session for further discussion and action.

Attachments: None

