



---

Official Community Plan Update 2020-21

# OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## SECTION 6: OUR RELATIONSHIPS

## 6. OUR RELATIONSHIPS

### OVERVIEW

We are committed to First Nations reconciliation and regular communication with local First Nations communities. We will work to earn the trust and confidence of First Nations communities, residents, businesses, and community organizations by acting with integrity, acknowledging our shortcomings, and inviting meaningful participation.

**Goal:** The City of Merritt will enhance relationships with First Nations and engagement with the residents of Merritt, to improve understanding and decision making.

### 6.1 FIRST NATIONS RECONCILIATION

---

#### OBJECTIVE

*Prioritize Reconciliation with Local First Nations*

---

#### POLICIES

- 6.1.1 Work with First Nations to create a **Merritt Reconciliation Action Plan**.
- 6.1.2 Acknowledge the Nleʔkepmx and Syilx Nations and their connection to this land.
- 6.1.3 Work with local First Nations to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- 6.1.4 Work with local First Nations to establish a development referral process.
- 6.1.5 Develop opportunities for public education and storytelling on the contributions of Indigenous peoples, culture, and history.
- 6.1.6 Work with local First Nations to incorporate Indigenous language and arts into wayfinding and signage, street, park, and civic facilities naming, community events and other opportunities to recognize the First Nations' history and culture.
- 6.1.7 Through relationship building, integrate Indigenous values and knowledge with environmental management and stewardship practices to enhance environmental protection.
- 6.1.8 Commemorate and celebrate Indigenous history and culture through the planning and design of civic spaces.
- 6.1.9 Respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action that reference municipal governments.
- 6.1.10 Provide Indigenous-informed training for Council and City staff.
- 6.1.11 Work with local First Nations to develop bilateral communication methods for providing information on proposed and approved developments, projects, and events.

## 6.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

---

### OBJECTIVE

*Promote Resident Engagement and Involvement in City Initiatives*

---

### POLICIES

- 6.2.1 Integrate the perspectives of Indigenous peoples through community engagement and reduce barriers to participation for Indigenous persons.
- 6.2.2 Provide opportunities and support early engagement of community members when developing programs and policies to effectively respond to their needs and priorities.
- 6.2.3 Encourage the creation of neighbourhood associations.
- 6.2.4 Facilitate and support civic engagement, including with at-risk, marginalized, and vulnerable populations.
- 6.2.5 Provide intercultural competency, anti-racism and trauma informed training for Council and City staff.
- 6.2.6 Ensure the budgets for City-led projects includes funding for robust engagement activities.