FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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VANCOUVER’S WALK FOR RECONCILIATION INSPIRES ACTION ONE YEAR LATER  
City of Vancouver proclaims “Reconciliation Week”, marking one year since 70,000 walked for reconciliation

Vancouver, BC – The City of Vancouver is to proclaim the week of September 22, 2014 “Reconciliation Week”, marking one year since 70,000 people braved the heavy rain to join the Walk for Reconciliation. The proclamation demonstrates a continued commitment by the City to build new relationships among Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians, as well as to further support the initiatives of Reconciliation Canada.

Reconciliation Canada, an Aboriginal-led organization, was launched in 2012 to engage Canadians from every part of society in dialogue and transformative experiences that revitalize relationships among Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians in order to build resilient and sustainable communities.

“Since the Walk for Reconciliation, I have found a sense of peace that I never knew would exist in my life,” said Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Ambassador of Reconciliation Canada. “I saw an outpouring of love, care, empathy, compassion and of course hope. Individuals of every race, every color, and every creed came out – it was unprecedented. I am delighted to see that the City of Vancouver is providing their continued support to this ongoing journey of reconciliation.”

The Walk for Reconciliation wrapped up a whole week of reconciliation events last year that engaged the public, provided education and awareness about the history of the residential school system and provided an opportunity for all Canadians to share stories and demonstrate a shared commitment to building a new way forward.

“With over 70,000 people coming together in the pouring rain, last year’s Walk for Reconciliation was a powerful representation of the spirit of reconciliation and our shared commitment to building a future based on understanding, respect, and opportunity,” said Mayor Gregor Robertson. “I am deeply grateful to the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and the urban Aboriginal community in Vancouver for their inspiring contributions over the past year, and as a City of Reconciliation, Vancouver is making a long-term commitment to advance reconciliation, to support the rights and aspirations of aboriginal people in Vancouver, and to share our progress with other cities and communities across Canada and the world.”

This Fall promises the launch of many new reconciliation initiatives within the city, including events hosted by Vancity Credit Union and Aboriginal Tourism BC. The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) will also host a full-day session at its annual Convention to explore reconciliation and local government-First Nation relationship building. This event follows on a resolution endorsed by UBCM at its 2013 Convention calling for a year of reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia.

There are many ways for the public to get involved, including visiting the Reconciliation Canada Online Celebration site. The online celebration titled Reconciliation Begins with Me, invites the media and the public to discover stories of individuals who have made transformational change within their communities. Stories come from individuals such as City of Vancouver Councillor, Andrea Reimer, Northwest Coast Native artist, Beau Dick, and Vancity Credit Union’s Senior Vice President of Business Development, Member and Community Engagement, Linda Morris. The site also includes a web space for the public to contribute their vision for reconciliation and a Community Action Toolkit that includes a guide for hosting kitchen-table dialogues. For more information, visit: http://reconciliationcanada.ca/reconciliation-begins-with-me/
About Reconciliation Canada

Born from the vision of Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk Elder, Reconciliation Canada is a charitable nonpartisan, community based initiative that promotes reconciliation by engaging Canadians from every part of society in open and honest dialogue and transformative experiences that revitalize relationships among Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians. Its initiatives include reconciliation dialogue workshops, reconciliation-based leadership training, economic reconciliation dialogues, and public awareness activities. Reconciliation Canada was formed as a collaboration between Tides Canada Initiatives (TCI) Society and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS). For more information, please visit www.reconciliationcanada.ca.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  

Proclamation  
"RECONCILIATION WEEK"  

WHEREAS Vancouver is blessed with a rich Coast Salish heritage as well as the vibrant, diverse cultures of other First Nations, Urban Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis. The contributions of Aboriginal people to Vancouver’s past, present and future are significant but often not well understood;  

AND WHEREAS More than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were forced from their homes to attend Indian Residential Schools in Canada;  

AND WHEREAS The Government of Canada recognizes that a relationship based on knowledge of our shared history, a respect for each other and a desire to move forward together with a renewed understanding that strong families, strong communities and vibrant cultures and traditions, will contribute to a stronger Canada for all of us;  

AND WHEREAS 70,000 people joined the Walk for Reconciliation in Vancouver on September 22, 2013. The purpose of the event was to engage the public, provide education and awareness about the history of the residential school system, and provide an opportunity for Canadians of all backgrounds to share stories and demonstrate a shared commitment to building a new way forward;  

AND WHEREAS The City will continue building on civic initiatives by supporting the initiatives of Reconciliation Canada and through Vancouver’s commitment to become a City of Reconciliation;  

AND WHEREAS Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to engage people from every level of society who are willing to create a new understanding in the relationships between Aboriginals and the people of Canada:  

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gregor Robertson, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the week of September 22nd to 28th, 2014 as  

"RECONCILIATION WEEK"  
in the City of Vancouver.  

Gregor Robertson  
MAYOR