

7 Messages for Indigenizing the City¹



1. Create a Two Row Wampum city whereby cities become a place for all of its peoples according to their own worldviews, practices and aspirations.
2. Humanize this place and its peoples as:
 - A home for human beings; focus on the spirit of this place and its beings - beyond the material and commercial manifestations.
 - A network of communities and neighbourhoods; a thousand Council fires or safe and equitable places for dialogue, where all peoples have a voice in the planning of the future city.
 - A place of extended kinship and caring, where we want to raise our families and spend our lives.
3. Indigenizing the city means realizing our vital connections to the land base that nourishes and sustains us.
 - Indigenizing the city means realizing our vital connections to the land base that nourishes and sustains us.
 - Honouring our waters, lands and resources.
 - Can we build a permanent relationship between the city and the lands that give cities life?
4. Open space in the cities so that Indigenous peoples can thrive as Indigenous peoples - everyone will be the richer for it:
 - A home for human beings; focus on the spirit of this place and its beings - beyond the material and commercial manifestations.
 - A place of extended kinship and caring, where we want to raise our families and spend our lives.
 - When Indigenous youth and adults have the space and resources to feel secure and validated in their identities and to live as Indigenous peoples, they flourish in cities. Indigenous peoples make powerful contributions to the city through arts, land stewardship, innovation, science, healing, architecture, restorative justice, and community-building.

¹ Messages condensed from Roberta Jamieson's keynote on The key to making a city more Indigenous address at the 2015 Walrus Talks in Calgary. Roberta is an Haudenosaunee lawyer and the President and CEO of Indspire, a national Indigenous registered charity that enriches Canada through investment in Indigenous education and by inspiring achievement by First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

5. Educate the city's children to be human beings before anything else; to be comfortable with diversity:
 - Educate each other on a different story of Canada where our history as Canadians begins with Indigenous peoples and continues with Indigenous peoples.
 - Where different nations were able to respect, learn, and share with one another; maintain their own cultures and live side by side.

6. Build relationships across sectors and levels of government, at every level:
 - Repair broken relationships, polish away the tarnish and strengthen existing ones, and build cherished and new respectful and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous peoples.
 - Loving, caring, and reciprocal relationships with the natural world
 - Intergenerational relationships
 - Embrace the promise of the Giswenta

7. All these messages are in a holistic bundle and indivisible:
 - To Indigenize the city, let's embrace and practice all seven with full and committed hearts, and for the next seven generations.

