This is a template from <u>Women Transforming Cities</u> (WTC) to email your city council about the TRC Calls to Action. This is just a guide - feel free to personalize as much as you like, and remember that sharing your connection to an issue helps councillors understand the importance of taking action. Find your representatives' emails on your municipality's website or <u>here</u>. Don't forget to update and/or remove the [highlighted] parts before sending

Optional: CC or BCC info@womentransformingcities.org so we can follow up with councils

Subject: Next steps on the TRC Calls to Action

Dear Mayor and Council,

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It's been 10 years since Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) published <u>94 Calls to Action</u>, which provide a survivor-designed workplan to address the ongoing legacy of residential schools.

Many of these Calls to Action are relevant to your work in local government – several mention municipalities specifically. I'm writing to ask what city council is doing to advance them.

[Consider adding a personalized paragraph here. For example, you could highlight one or two of the following:

- Appreciation for statements your elected officials have recently made about reconciliation (including photos at events) – and a reminder that their next steps must include tangible action.
- Your recent learnings about reconciliation and decolonization it helps to show that we are all in a learning process.
- Current events in your community that impact Indigenous peoples, underscore the need for leadership on reconciliation, or provide an upcoming opportunity to advance the Calls to Action.
- A story or statistic that personally motivates you to pursue the Calls to Action.
- Appreciation for steps your local government is already taking on reconciliation it can help motivate action when we celebrate existing work.
- A specific Call to Action that you'd like to see progress on and why.]

One of the <u>Principles of Reconciliation</u> from the TRC is: "Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources."

As you set priorities and establish the budget for the year ahead, will you commit to funding the TRC Calls to Action? Reconciliation isn't free. Meaningfully resourcing this work, especially

during tough economic times, will show that our statements of support for Indigenous peoples and reconciliation go beyond performative action, and are truly a priority.

I would appreciate receiving updates on how you are advancing the TRC Calls to Action in the coming year—including your plans to support this work in the upcoming budget—and how I can support [name of city]'s next steps.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Postal code - to indicate you're a resident]

P.S. Women Transforming Cities recently published a <u>report</u> about the TRC Calls to Action in local government. In addition to tracking progress and identifying key barriers, the report provides examples of local action from across BC and guidance for local leaders. I hope this report might be helpful to you and your staff in the work ahead.