

Kehewin Cree Nation - Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue

Recommendation

That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, sign the Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue between the City of Edmonton and Kehewin Cree Nation, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the September 7, 2021, Citizen Services report CS00784.

Executive Summary

In 2020, Kehewin Cree Nation approached the City of Edmonton with a desire to establish a working relationship to create an urban reserve within Edmonton. In 2021, City Council approved the Urban Reserve Strategy to provide a framework for the City's role in urban reserve creation and with the strategy established, Kehewin Cree Nation requested a memorandum of cooperation and dialogue be developed between the City and Kehewin Cree Nation to guide the working relationship and provide a framework for negotiations that would help both parties with this process.

Report

Kehewin Cree Nation is a First Nation located in Treaty Six territory, approximately 20 kilometers south of Bonnyville, Alberta. As of December 31, 2017, Kehewin Cree Nation had 2,185 members, 1,261 living on-reserve. The Kehewin Cree Nation government is represented by Okimaw Vernon Watchmaker and six Council members and is a member Nation of Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc. and the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.

In November 2020, Kehewin Cree Nation approached the City of Edmonton indicating a desire to establish a positive working relationship with the City to create an urban reserve within Edmonton. At the January 18, 2021, City Council meeting Administration was directed to develop an urban reserve strategy. The strategy, which outlines an approach for the City to work with First Nations interested in developing an urban reserve in Edmonton, was approved by City Council at the July 5, 2021, meeting.

In consideration of the direction provided by the Urban Reserve Strategy, Administration and Kehewin Cree Nation representatives have worked together to draft a Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue. The memorandum is a principle-based relationship understanding and outlines the parties' shared intention to outline the

high-level objectives of each party and to establish a framework for negotiations for a future Kehewin Cree Nation urban reserve in Edmonton. As urban reserves are created by the federal government, the City would focus on creating a mutually beneficial relationship with Kehewin Cree Nation and the arrangements necessary to bring it to fruition should the federal government proceed with establishing an urban reserve.

Administration’s approach of engaging with a First Nation early in the process is aligned with the guidance provided in the Urban Reserve Strategy. Establishing a formal relationship with Kehewin Cree Nation may help support a successful urban reserve development process.

Budget/Financial Implications

Any work associated with finalizing, signing or activating the Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue can be accomplished within existing program budgets. Potential costs of establishing or servicing an urban reserve would be determined through the negotiation process and would be put through the appropriate budget approval process.

Legal Implications

Memorandums of cooperation and dialogue are legally non-binding documents that provide guidance to Administration and can assist with the allocation of existing resources and implementation plans.

Public Engagement

While broad public engagement was not conducted during the development of the memorandum, the materials were developed in close cooperation with representatives of Kehewin Cree Nation, with a view to continued dialogue and relationship-building.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

| Corporate Outcome(s): Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work and play | | | |
|---|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Outcome(s) | Measure(s) | Result(s) | Target(s) |
| Edmonton is seen as a leader in collaborating with First Nations that are interested in the establishment of urban reserves | Number of eligible First Nations that discuss urban reserve creation with the City of Edmonton | 2021: 1 | Maintain or increase year over year |

Risk Assessment

| Risk Element | Risk Description | Likelihood | Impact | Risk Score (with current mitigations) | Current Mitigations | Potential Future Mitigations |
|--|---|------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| If recommendation is approved | | | | | | |
| Public Perception | Certain Indigenous communities that do not yet have formal agreements may feel they are not supported by the City | 4 Likely | 1 Minor | 4 Low | Continue to have an open dialogue with and work with Indigenous communities interested in building relationships with the City | Work with Indigenous communities to support their desires and needs through other mechanisms within our jurisdiction |
| If recommendation is not approved | | | | | | |
| Public Perception | First Nations and key Indigenous partners may feel that Edmonton is not committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples | 4 Likely | 2 Moderate | 8 Medium | None | Work with First Nations and all Indigenous peoples as described within the Indigenous Framework to address their desires and needs through other mechanisms |

Attachment

1. Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue - Kehewin Cree Nation

Others Reviewing this Report

- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- S. Padbury, Acting Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- K. Fallis-Howell, Acting City Solicitor
- S.McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Planning and Economy