

Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue Renewal

Recommendation

That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, sign the Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue between the City of Edmonton and the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the September 7, 2021, Citizen Services report CS00777.

Executive Summary

In 2012, the City and the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue to further the relationship between the two organizations. Both organizations have built upon the existing memorandum and developed a revised document to reflect the evolving and deepening relationships between the City of Edmonton and the Confederacy. Council approval is required to authorize the Mayor to sign the renewed memorandum with the Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.

Report

The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations was created in 1993 to serve as the united political voice for those Treaty Nations who are signatories of Treaty No. 6. The confederacy is dedicated to ensuring that the terms, spirit and intent of Treaty No. 6 are honoured and respected and advocates for the right of the Treaty No. 6 First Nations to self-determination. Self-determination includes both the right to choose one's own governmental and political structures and to direct the social, cultural, spiritual and economic advancement of their peoples.

In 2012, the City entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations. This has led to an ongoing and intentional relationship between the City of Edmonton, the Confederacy, and member Nations. The City has permanently installed the Treaty No. 6 flag at City Hall and the City honours Treaty No. 6 Recognition Day annually.

The City engages the confederacy and its member Nations in a variety of projects that may be of interest and the partnership has deepened in recent years. The City has worked with the Confederacy on the Urban Reserves Strategy as well as on

development of an indigenous procurement framework to be presented later in 2021. The City engages with Treaty No. 6 First Nations on a variety of initiatives including policy frameworks, infrastructure, planning and community development projects in the city and particularly in the river valley, an area of historical, cultural, and environmental significance.

Since the memorandum was signed in 2012, the context of Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations in Canada has also changed significantly. The Government of Canada has passed legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released its final report and Calls to Action and in 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report and Calls for Justice. The City has also begun to engage more directly with individual First Nations, such as Enoch Cree Nation. The renewal of this memorandum is also an opportunity to ensure it continues to be relevant and effective as perspectives develop and shift.

The confederacy and the City of Edmonton worked together to develop the renewed memorandum. Following a legal review, the memorandum is ready to be endorsed by City Council and signed by the Mayor.

Administrations from both organizations have agreed to develop a work plan and deliverables that flow from the Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue. The City will continue to deepen its relationship and work with the confederacy to address priorities such as urban reserve development, housing, food security, and education related to the treaty relationship for City Council and Administration.

Budget/Financial Implications

Administration anticipates that the work required to implement a work plan from the Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue can be accomplished within existing operational budgets. Current staff may be reassigned to ensure there is appropriate support for specific items such as urban reserve creation. Additional resources may be required if new work is agreed to through the work plan 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

Broad public engagement was not conducted during the renewal of the memorandum, the renewed materials were developed in close cooperation with confederacy representatives and as part of an ongoing dialogue and relationship.

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 establishing and continuing positive, respectful, mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations	Number of formal meetings between City of Edmonton and Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nation staff to develop and advance a joint work plan in the calendar year.	N/A	At least three meetings per 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	Indigenous communities that are not members of the confederacy 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 that are not members of the confederacy	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 - Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations

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