

## Update: Indigenous Peoples Strategy Initiative

**Initiative Title:** Indigenous Peoples Strategy  
**City Council Lead(s):** Mayor D. Iveson / Councillor T. Caterina /  
 Councillor S. McKeen  
**Department Lead(s):** Citizen Services, L. Brenneis / M. Chow

### **Recommendation - Renew for 2017-2021 Council Term**

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#### **Objective**

City Council's engagement with the Indigenous communities in matters and ways that benefit achievement of their economic, social and cultural goals is an ongoing focus established by previous Councils, and continues with this Council. Emphasis is targeted toward three main areas of focus; youth leadership development and civic engagement, supports for aboriginal women, and transitions to urban life.

#### **Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of May 2017**

##### Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement

Advancement on the creation of a movement around *Reconciliation* has emphasized the need to include educational institutions and youth within the school systems. As a result, key partnerships have formed with the metro Edmonton School Board Indigenous Program areas. This relationship has assisted on the successful establishment and ongoing delivery of initiatives that engage indigenous students and their non-indigenous peers.

- Annual Ben Calf Robe Pow Wow - May  
5,000+ people attended at Commonwealth Recreation Centre
- Annual Reconciliation Week Activities - May/June  
250+ people at City Hall, 100's at various community events
- National Orange Shirt Day - September  
250+ people at City Hall, 400 entries provincially
- University of Alberta Round Dance - January  
500+ people at Education Gym, North Campus
- National Aboriginal Day Celebrations  
250+ people at Borden Park (2017 Victoria Park with an anticipated estimated +5,000 people to attend)

##### Supports for Indigenous Women

The focus of this element has intersection with other City initiatives such as the Women's Initiative and Gender Based Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

Initiative underway, as well as EndPovertyEdmonton and its Road Map actions. Much of the focus in this last quarter has been on how to further support these two initiatives in ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous Women.

- Institute of Public Administration of Canada's Graduate Internship being shared with Government of Alberta's Ministry of Status of Women and Indigenous Relations until December 2017
- Upcoming advancement of joint efforts on United Nations Safe Cities Initiative with Government of Alberta's Ministries of Status of Women, Indigenous Relations and University of Alberta's Young Indigenous Women's Circle of Leadership Program
- Ongoing support to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women and their annual Esquao Awards and young women's leadership program
- Indigenous Artist-In-Residence Pilot was able to engage local Indigenous Women in advancing conversations around access and inclusion

#### Transition to Urban Life

Efforts around transitions in past policy paradigms focused on Indigenous Peoples when they arrived in Edmonton. Proactive approaches have us re-thinking about the relationship to home communities from which people are leaving to ensure a continuity of two-way supports. Engagements are being fostered, both formally through consultation and informally through partnership.

- Fort Edmonton Park Redevelopment - Indigenous Consultation
- Southeast (Valley Line) LRT - Indigenous Consultation
- River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan Redevelopment
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Services Culture Camp

#### **Future Steps**

The elements within the Indigenous Peoples Strategy Council Initiative will continue to advance in partnership with the various communities and stakeholders involved. The Indigenous Relations Office, alongside other business units within Administration, will ensure the ongoing maintenance of the relationships established and ensure they are incubated and mature. Opportunities to refresh future iterations of a revamped mechanism to advance the economic, social and cultural goals of the Indigenous communities in Edmonton will be co-created with the next City Council.

#### **Evaluation**

Council sponsors have clearly indicated to Administration that the work within the Indigenous Peoples Strategy is just beginning. Collective feedback has stated focused efforts on this topical area must continue to be co-championed by future City Councils and senior leadership within the Administration. There is no desire at this time, as indicated by Council Sponsors, to discontinue this initiative.