

RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF SHARED RECOGNITION AND COOPERATION WITH THE OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT

Recommendation

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, sign the attached Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, formerly the Métis Nation of Alberta, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the October 28, 2024, Community Services report CS02565.

Requested Action	Council decision		
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle	ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals		
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.	Healthy City Urban Places		
City Plan Values	BELONG. LIVE.		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	A community of communities Inclusive and compassionate	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Community safety and well-being
Corporate Business Plan	Serving Edmontonians		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Framework City of Edmonton Memorandum of Understandings with Indigenous Communities and Organizations Memorandum of Shared Cooperation & Cooperation with the Métis Nation of Alberta. 		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 13, 2013, CR 325 Community Services Report, Memorandum of Cooperation with the Metis Nation of Alberta 		

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Executive Summary

- The City of Edmonton is located within the traditional Métis Homeland. According to the 2021 Federal Census, Edmonton is home to almost half (49.8 per cent) of the citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government¹.
- The City signed a Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation with the Métis Nation of Alberta in September 2013.
- On February 24, 2023, the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation of Alberta signed the *Métis Nation Within Alberta Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement*,² which officially recognized the Otipemisiwak Métis Government as an Indigenous government within Alberta with law-making powers in areas such as citizenship, leadership and government operations.
- The Otipemisiwak Métis Government approached City of Edmonton Administration in spring 2024 to request a revised Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation that reflects their new governance structure, as well as the ongoing robust relationship between the two governments.

REPORT

A new revised Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation (MSRC) is being brought forward for City Council approval which recognizes the government-to-government relationship that exists between the City and the rights-bearing Otipemisiwak Métis Government. This updates the existing Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation that was signed in 2013 by the Métis Nation of Alberta and the City (September 13, 2013, CR 325 Community Services Report, Memorandum of Cooperation with the Metis Nation of Alberta).

Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation (2013)

In Summer 2012, then-Mayor Stephen Mandel signed an agreement with the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, the regional umbrella advocacy organization for the majority of Treaty No. 6 First Nations in Alberta. This led to increased outreach to other Indigenous nations, including the then-Métis Nation of Alberta. Following this agreement, the first MSRC with the Métis Nation of Alberta and the City of Edmonton was signed on September 30, 2013. The intention of this agreement was to further positive relations between two representational entities, with one outcome being to explore future collaborative efforts around projects or initiatives of shared interest. In 2021, then-Mayor Don Iveson signed an updated agreement with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.³

¹ Membership in a Métis organization or Settlement: Findings from the 2021 Census of Population
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-X/2021006/98-200-X2021006-eng.cfm>

² Métis Nation Within Alberta Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement:
<https://albertametis.com/app/uploads/2023/02/Self-government-and-Implementation-Agreement-signed.pdf>

³ Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue Made Between the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and the City of Edmonton:
<https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/documents/MomoCooperationDialogueTreaty6COE.pdf?cb=1726085075>

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Revised Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation (2024)

In spring 2024, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government approached City of Edmonton Administration about renewing the MSRC, which led to a collaborative drafting between the administrations of both governments.

Major changes to the proposed MSRC include:

- **Name and Governance Change:** The MSRC now reflects the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's new name, their federal recognition as an Indigenous government transitioning from under the *Alberta Societies Act*, as well as their new governance system which removes Regions and adds Districts.
- **Cooperation and the Creation of an Action Plan:** Opportunities for ongoing engagement through annual gatherings of staff and the creation and advancement of a Métis Action Plan that will address priorities of both parties.
- **Housing:** Ensuring the advancement of ongoing and future housing opportunities and partnerships between the City and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government by working together to acknowledge and address the housing needs of Otipemisiwak Métis Government citizens.
- **Consultation Processes:** Establishing clear connections and processes for meaningful consultation for both parties.
- **Economic Development:** Fostering opportunities to support Métis economic development in Edmonton, identifying and addressing barriers, and identifying opportunities for mutually beneficial economic development.
- **Senior Leadership Relations:** Fostering positive relationships at a senior-leadership level through an annual meeting between the City and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.
- **Cultural Respect:** Ensuring that services by both organizations are delivered with respect for Métis culture and traditions.

Budget/Financial Implications

Administration will utilize existing operating budgets and staff resources to build upon any future initiatives or projects that may result from additional dialogues.

Legal Implications

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

Community Insight

The City engages with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in areas such as land use, housing, social planning, policy development projects, events and requests for participation in City-led and rights-based engagement and consultation processes. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government has signaled its intent to partner with the City and other orders of government on a recovery centre and other housing projects for its citizens. The Mayor met with Otipemisiwak Métis Government Present and Senior Executive in April 2024 to discuss priorities, opportunities for collaboration and partnerships.

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Administration has specifically sought the guidance of Métis peoples who experience systemic barriers due to compounding issues of discrimination, geography, isolation and disconnection. Métis people have historically been displaced from land and excluded from decision-making in Edmonton and beyond. The Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation is an example of addressing intersectionality in action by engaging with an Indigenous government on shared interests.

Future actions that will be taken to identify barriers to equity will be developed using specific culturally responsive tools including:

- Using an Indigenous Intersectional Based Analysis Framework.
- Creating the Action Plan identified in the Draft Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation.
- Working with Otipemisiwak Métis Government's new Citizen's Council, which includes a Women's representative and youth representative to increase opportunities for engagement.
- Continue to work with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to identify opportunities to work together.
- Activate the four roles of the Indigenous Framework when engaging with community stakeholders.⁴

Environment and Climate Review

This report was reviewed for environment and climate risks. Based on the review completed no significant interactions with the City's environmental and climate goals were identified within the scope of this report.

Attachments

1. Draft Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation: Otipemisiwak Métis Government and City of Edmonton (2024)
2. Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation: Métis Nation of Alberta and City of Edmonton (2013)

⁴ City of Edmonton Indigenous Framework:
https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/initiatives_innovation/community-engagement-indigenous-framework