

Indigenous Culture and Wellness Centre

Recommendation

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Goal 1, Action #1 of the EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map 2017-2021 (page 24), as set out in Attachment 3 of the March 3, 2021, Citizen Services report CS00337, be amended to change the lead from "City of Edmonton" to "EndPovertyEdmonton".

Executive Summary

An Indigenous culture and wellness centre is identified in both the EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy and the Road Map as a City-led action. Since 2017, the City has partnered with the EndPovertyEdmonton Indigenous Circle to move the project forward including an environmental scan that validated the need for the centre in Edmonton and discussing ideas relating to the programs, services, and other functions the centre would host.

In January 2021, Administration received a proposal from EndPovertyEdmonton to lead and manage the project going forward, guided by the Indigenous Circle. The proposal sets out how the project will be managed including a funding request of \$202,042 for the completion of a business case. The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, as fiscal agent of EndPovertyEdmonton, would receive the funding and would report on how it will be spent.

Report

In 2014, City Council approved the creation of the Task Force to Eliminate Poverty. Throughout 2014 and 2015, the task force engaged Edmontonians to identify solutions that would meaningfully address the complex and multidimensional facets of poverty. This engagement resulted in two City Council-approved plans: End Poverty In A Generation: A Strategy and End Poverty In A Generation: A Road Map To Guide Our Journey.

Throughout the community engagement, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people voiced a longstanding need for a unique place where the diverse Indigenous cultures in the Edmonton region could gather in ceremony to celebrate their rich history and culture. The centre was identified as one of the City-led actions of the Road Map.

In 2018, the partnership between Administration and EndPovertyEdmonton Indigenous

Circle was officially recognized in a ceremony and continues to be informed by Indigenous worldview, ceremony, and values. This partnership led to the completion of the environmental scan, guiding principles, as well as governance and partnership discussions.

The environmental scan (Attachment 1), completed in December 2018, highlighted the importance of the centre being Indigenous-led, owned, and operated with support from community partners including the City of Edmonton and other orders of government.

In January 2021, Administration received a proposal from EndPovertyEdmonton detailing its proposal to lead and manage the development of the Indigenous culture and wellness centre project with support from the City where required (Attachment 2). With governance discussions now underway, Administration and EndPovertyEdmonton believe it is a suitable time for the project to transition to the management of EndPovertyEdmonton and its Indigenous Circle. EndPovertyEdmonton would facilitate an Indigenous-led process which would include the completion of a business case and establishment of partnerships for the operation of the centre.

Budget/Financial Implications

In 2019, City Council approved \$2.769 million as part of capital profile 19-21-2123 - Indigenous Cultural and Wellness Centre. As part of its request to Administration, EndPovertyEdmonton requested \$202,042 to complete the business case for the centre. This funding would come from the capital profile. The remainder of the funding will be used for the planning and design of the project.

Legal Implications

As EndPovertyEdmonton is not a legal entity, if the recommendation in this report is approved, the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region will enter into a funding agreement with the City to provide funding for the business case development.

Public Engagement

The EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy and Road Map was informed by community consultations involving approximately 3,000 Edmontonians.

A total of 1,614 individuals contributed individual perspectives to inform the environmental scan related to the centre.

EndPovertyEdmonton indicates that a community engagement specialist will be responsible for working with and gathering broad support for the business case from Indigenous stakeholders.

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)
Increased opportunities for indigenous peoples to undertake leadership opportunities relating to managing the construction and sustainably operating infrastructure projects that benefit their communities.	Number of facility projects currently led and managed by Indigenous peoples.	N/A	TBD

Risk Assessment

Risk Element	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score (with current mitigations)	Current Mitigations	Potential Future Mitigations
If recommendation is approved						
Public Perception	Partners leading projects may result in a perception that the City is downloading services they should be providing.	3 - Possible	2 - Moderate	6 - Low	Current relationship-building efforts and partnerships with the Indigenous communities.	
Financial	Reductions in the City budget may impact funding of existing and/or future projects.	4 - Likely	2 - Moderate	8 - Medium	Manage funding expectations of partners by only communicating what is approved and by exploring other funding sources other than the city funding.	
If recommendation is not approved						
Financial	If the City funds are not released, End Poverty Edmonton will not be in a financial position to proceed with the business case resulting in delay of the project	4 - Likely	2 - Moderate	8 - Medium	The City could continue to manage the project although this would not be agreeable to the End Poverty Edmonton and its Indigenous Circle.	

Public Perception	Further delay of this project may harm the City's relationship with this community.	4 - Likely	2 - Moderate	8 - Medium	Empower End Poverty Edmonton and its Indigenous Circle with funding previously approved by City Council to complete the Strategy, Concept, and Design project phases.	
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Attachments

1. Indigenous Culture and Wellness Centre Environmental Scan - Final Report Executive Summary
2. EndPovertyEdmonton proposal for managing the Indigenous Culture and Wellness Centre
3. EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map

Others Reviewing this Report

- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- M. Persson, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- J. Meliefste, Branch Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor, Office of the City Manager