

Policy GOV-001-036: Acknowledgement of Treaty Six (New)**Report Purpose**

To seek Council approval of new Policy GOV-001-036: Acknowledgement of Treaty Six

Recommendation

THAT policy GOV-001-036: Acknowledgement of Treaty Six be approved.

Council History

April 4, 2017 - Council approved motion 2017 / 135: THAT Administration provide a report that includes:

- information on the historical significance of indigenous people in Strathcona County;
- an overview of the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Committee report and information on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons;
- recommended options for meaningful and significant acknowledgement of Treaty No. 6 including ways in which our regional partners undertake such acknowledgement (e.g. presentations from First Nations representatives); and that the report be brought to Council for consideration by the end of the second quarter 2017.

July 4, 2017 - Council approved motion 2017 / 277: THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, invite a member or members of the Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations to attend a Priorities Committee meeting to share their stories; and

THAT each member of Council and Priorities Committee meeting be called to order with an acknowledgement that the meeting is being held on the traditional land of Treaty Six Territory; and

THAT civic events opened by members of Council be opened with an acknowledgement that the occasion is taking place on the traditional land of Treaty Six Territory; and

THAT Administration include information on the historical significance of indigenous people in Strathcona County during the Council orientation program following each municipal election.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: The provisions under which the country of Canada was established include the shaping of the local economy in the nineteenth century by the Indigenous Peoples' knowledge of the land, agricultural practices and the fur trade.

Governance: Intergovernmental relations between Strathcona County Council and the leaders of the Confederacy of the Treaty Six First Nations could be strengthened by pursuing the principles of one or more of the pathways described on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities publication, Pathways to Reconciliation.

Social: Neighbouring communities are taking the first steps toward acknowledging traditional homelands and, as such, making strides toward reconciliation with the residents of Indigenous heritage in our community and in the region.

Culture: The First Nations people gave the place names in the region, and today we continue to use these same names: Beaver Hills, Beaverhill Lake, Cooking Lake, Cooking Lake Trail and Hastings Lake.

Environment: n/a

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: Adoption of this policy will enable the acknowledgement of Treaty Six at the beginning of Council and Priorities Committee meetings.

Interdepartmental: Legislative and Legal Services; Intergovernmental Affairs

Summary

In June 2015, through the creation of a comprehensive historical record on the policies and operations of residential schools, the Truth and Reconciliation Committee produced a report that includes 94 calls to action to "redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation." These 94 calls to action are considered a pathway to reconciliation and will be answered at the federal, provincial and territorial levels of government; however, municipalities are showing their support towards reconciliation as there is an acknowledgement that the challenges manifest themselves at the local level. There is an opportunity for municipal councils to work with Indigenous organizations to strengthen intergovernmental relationships.

In 2016, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) developed a guide for supporting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canadian communities entitled, *Pathways to Reconciliation*. This document outlines three primary pathways that could be adopted, possibly in stages, and best suit the unique circumstances of the diverse municipalities across the country: Fostering Communities, Alliances and Hope; Advancing Awareness and Recognizing Rights; and Improving Health and Wellness.

The journey towards these methods of reconciliation begins by fostering relationships, acknowledging traditional homelands, recognizing that we are all Treaty Six people and upholding an appreciation for the provisions under which the country of Canada was first established. The adoption of this policy facilitates Strathcona County Council's commitment to reconciliation through building relationships, providing for the education of the new Council members on the historical significance of Indigenous peoples in this region and acknowledging Treaty Six territory.

Communication Plan

Once approved, Policy GOV-001-036: Acknowledgement of Treaty Six will be made available publicly on the County website.

Enclosure

1 Policy GOV-001-036: Acknowledgement of Treaty Six