

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Strathcona County Museum and Archives Review Final Report****Report Purpose**

To present the Priorities Committee with the consultants' report on the operations of Strathcona County Museum and Archives.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents.

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents.

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication.

Report

In May 2018, Prairie Wild Consulting was contracted to complete a comprehensive operational review of Strathcona County Museum and Archives. The review included an assessment of the Museum and Archives programs and services, staffing levels, management, and the limitations that pertain to service delivery in their current facility. In addition, the consultants aligned the review with Strathcona County's strategic priorities and made links to other County plans and initiatives. They reviewed best and promising practices in museums management and compared operations in similar size municipalities. The review also included visioning for the future. 916 participants were engaged; 46 stakeholder interviews were conducted along with online and intercept surveys; 672 respondents chose to engage online; 164 participated in the intercept survey; and 34 people participated in a community meeting.

The results of the public engagement process indicate that Strathcona County residents value having a local museum and archives to share our story over time. There is support for a museum that tells the unique story of Strathcona County through archives, artifacts, experiential learning, stationary and rotating exhibits, and programs and activities. Through this review, there is demonstrated support for developing a legacy that realizes the vision of a 21st century museum and archives.

Next steps:

- Provide the final report to the project lead for the Recreation and Culture Strategy and Planning and Development Services for planning purposes.
- Provide support to ensure the sustainability of the Strathcona County Museum and Archives, the request for which will be presented through the 2019-22 budget process.
- Complete a feasibility and functional program study in 2019/20 to help determine when the vision of a new Museum and Archives can be realized in Strathcona County, the request for which will be presented through the 2019-22 budget process.
- Complete an evaluation of governance models in tandem with the feasibility and functional program studies.
- Provide an update to Council in the third quarter of 2019.

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct23_2018

Council and Committee History

February 27, 2018 Council approved the following motion: "That a contribution of up to \$125,000 funded from the Cultural Development Fund Reserve (R12), to offset one time investment for emergent issues in 2018 at the Strathcona County Museum and fund consultant costs to develop options for sustainability of the Museum facility, be approved."

Other Impacts

Policy: Cultural Services Policy SER-011-012

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: Facility Services, Planning and Development Services, Human Resources, Communications.

Master Plan/Framework:

Communication Plan

Administration will meet with the Board of the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation to discuss the consultants' report and next steps. Respondents who provided their contact information will also be contacted. A media release will be issued.

Enclosures

- 1 Review, Strathcona County Museum and Archives, Prairie Wild Consulting Final Report
- 2 Appendix E – What We Heard Report
- 3 Appendix F – Making Additional Links
- 4 Strathcona County Museum and Archives Review Presentation