

**Indigenous Peoples Relationship Update****Report Purpose**

To seek Council's approval for initiatives to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Actions.

**Recommendation**

THAT an Indigenous Relations Professional position be approved with funding provided from the current Senior Administration budget until the end of 2021, and future funding for the position to be addressed through the 2022 budget process; and

THAT Administration work with Indigenous leaders, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers on the development of an Indigenous Education and Training Program for all Strathcona County elected officials and staff, be approved; and

THAT Administration prepare a report in consultation with Indigenous leaders, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and artists, on the installation of a permanent memorial to honour those impacted by Canada's residential schools, be approved.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

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

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

**Report**

Council has supported ongoing initiatives to enhance Strathcona County's Indigenous relationships, including: updating its Territorial Acknowledgement (GOV-001-004) through a consultative process with Indigenous leaders, Elders and Knowledge Keepers; permanently raising the Confederation of Treaty Six First Nations' and Métis Nation of Alberta's flags in Council Chambers; engaging with numerous First Nations and Metis representatives for the North Strathcona Park redevelopment; and activities during the recent National Indigenous People's Week. Other initiatives undertaken by Administration are listed in Enclosure 1.

Council has also recognized in its approval of GOV-001-004 that Strathcona County has additional work to undertake the nine Calls to Action applicable to municipalities and other governments in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report.

The recommendations contained in this report support Strathcona County's commitment to: build understanding within its organization about Indigenous Peoples and their history in Strathcona County; ensure inclusivity of the many Indigenous people who have resided on the land now known as Strathcona County; and, recognize the structure of the Confederacy of Treaty Six and the unique culture and history of the Métis people, the governance of the Métis Nation of Alberta and the unique Métis Settlements as distinct groups.

Strathcona County Council, Administration and residents have been affected by the recent discoveries of unmarked graves adjacent to former Residential Schools in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. There is recognition that Alberta had the highest number of Residential Schools in Canada within its borders and the likelihood there will be more discoveries in this province and across Canada.

As reflected in the first recommendation, a dedicated, full-time position will be able to focus on this work at a cost of up to approximately \$110,000 per year. Having a full-time resource will enable the County to continue the work it has already undertaken in relationship-building with First Nations and Métis people in a nation-to-nation platform. This position will apply a corporate lens to the work and will report to the Chief Commissioner being a member of the Intergovernmental Affairs Branch. Other municipalities, including the City of Edmonton and Town of Devon, have full-time staff and are making progress addressing the TRC Calls to Action.

The third recommendation specifically addresses the TRC Call to Action 57 'to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations...'. Utilizing resources, existing and under development where possible, as well as established relationships, will inform the development of a Strathcona County training program.

The fourth recommendation will allow Administration, on Council's behalf and in consultation with First Nations and Métis people, to provide recommendations for Council's consideration on the installation of a permanent memorial to honour those impacted by Canada's Residential Schools.

### **Council and Committee History**

Sept. 17, 2017	Council approved GOV-001-036 – Acknowledgement of Treaty Six (includes land acknowledgement)
June 17, 2020	Governance Advisory Committee begins review of GOV-001-036
July 22, 2020	Governance Advisory Committee continues review of GOV-001-036
December 2, 2020	Governance Advisory Committee continues review of GOV-001-036
February 17, 2021	Governance Advisory Committee approved THAT the proposed policy GOV-001-004 Territorial Acknowledgement, as set out in Enclosure 1 of the February 17, 2021 Governance Advisory Committee report, be provided to Council for consideration by June 15, 2021.
June 15, 2021	Council approved GOV-001-004 Territorial Acknowledgement and raised the flags of the Confederation of Treaty Six Nations and the Métis Nation of Alberta in Council Chambers.

### **Enclosure**

#### **1 Indigenous Relationship-Building Initiatives**