

Indigenous Initiatives Update

Intergovernmental Affairs

June 21, 2022

Overview

1. Background
2. Motion Updates
 - Indigenous Relations Professional
 - Indigenous Education and Training Program
 - Residential School Memorial
 - Proposed temporary artwork
3. Other Initiatives



Background

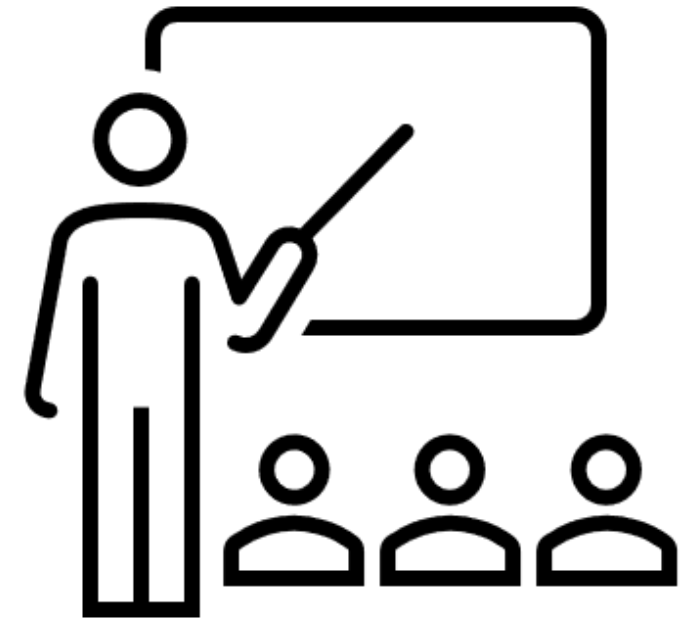
- July 6, 2021, Motions:
 - THAT an Indigenous Relations Professional position be approved....
 - THAT Administration work with Indigenous leaders, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to develop an Indigenous Education and Training Program....
 - THAT Administration prepare a report for Council's consideration by Q2 2022...on the installation of a permanent memorial to honour those impacted by Canada's residential schools.
- In addition to the Council motion to identify a plan to fulfill the TRC Calls to Action as presented to Council in September 2021

Indigenous Relations Professional

- Indigenous Relations Advisor Position
 - Position was added to the Intergovernmental Affairs (IA) Branch.
 - IA and the Chief Commissioners Office developed the job description and recruited to the position.
- Position Responsibilities:
 - Coordinating the corporate approach to Indigenous relations.
 - Establishing relationships at the government-to-government level with First Nations, Métis communities and the Métis Nation of Alberta.
 - Advising on Indigenous engagements/consultations.
 - Leading the internal Indigenous Relations Working Group / Indigenous Advisory Committee and;
 - Identifying priority initiatives to advance good relations with Indigenous peoples.

Education and Training Program

- Providing employees and elected officials with Indigenous Peoples, History, and Intercultural Relations Employee Training fulfills TRC Call #57
- A working group including representatives from IA and HR drafted and issued a Request for Information
 - Responses to this provided the County with an idea of what training providers existed and what is generally included in these types of training
- The County has requested quotes from 3 of the top respondents.
 - The quotes will identify the details of their training programs and related costs
- The County will select a vendor and begin offering courses in Q4 of 2022.



Residential School Memorial

- Staged project approach to respond to the need for a memorial in the County while giving the community time to determine the approach for the permanent memorial.
- Temporary Indigenous Public Art
 - Indigenous Advisory Circle of artists/curators helped frame the request for expressions of interest for the temporary projects
 - Aimed to build relationships with a wider circle of Indigenous artists and remain open to their choice of themes to explore in their artwork
 - Identified 2 artists who will install visual art projects in 2022-23
 - Métis Artist Heather Shillinglaw
 - Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation artist Eugene Alexis
- Permanent Memorial
 - The County is establishing an Indigenous Advisory Committee which will guide the direction and scope for the permanent memorial
 - Memorial may take many forms (i.e. public art, landmark, garden, etc.)

Heather Shillinglaw

- Métis artist from the LeGoff Indian Reserve (now Cold Lake First Nations)
- Mixed-media art rooted in both traditional and modern quilting methods
- Reference to County lakes and rivers, and her own family's journey through the healing process from the harm of the residential school system and the other injustices
- Will be displayed in the Community Centre and unveiled September 30th



N. Saskatchewan River, Edmonton



Lac Ste. Anne



Joseph Lake



Cooking Lake

Eugene Alexis

- From Alexis #133 Reservation on the shores of Wakamne (Lac Ste. Anne) in Treaty 6 territory
- Artist will create a 7 ft x 3 ft canvas painting which will be added to the County Collection, then reproduced in vinyl as a mural
- Artist will take his inspiration from one of his artworks (above, "Dancing into the Future") and create 3 designs for the wall
- Art will be completed in 2022 and the mural will be installed in Spring 2023



"Dancing Into the Future" by Eugene Alexis



Rough mock-up of mural on Sherwood Park Arena

Other Initiatives

- Indigenous Advisory Committee
 - Administrative committee with up to 8 Indigenous members.
 - Will provide advice to all County departments.
 - Summer 2022 recruitment to begin meeting in September.
- Indigenous Framework (2023)
 - Developed/guided by the Indigenous Advisory Committee.
 - Will set strategic priorities (short, medium, long-term) for the County.
- Establishing formal government-government relationships
 - Establish administrative and elected official level relationships
 - Where there is interest, explore things like MOUs