

Staff Report 2023-0212

Meeting Date: May 9, 2023

Subject: 2023 Indigenous Engagement Workplan and Proposed One-year Pilot Program

Submitted By: Giuliana Giancotta, Project Manager, Community Projects, Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed one-year pilot program as outlined in Staff Report 2023-0212, be approved; and

That facility rental related fees and charges up to a maximum of \$1,200 per indigenous group or individual, be waived.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to update Council on the activities of the Town Staff implementing reconciliation action and the planned workplan for 2023
- Town Staff continue to engage with Mississauga of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) as committed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in October 2022 and coordinate meetings as they relate to projects of mutual interest
- Town Staff act on the Calls to Action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)
- Using funds approved in the 2023 Budget, Town Staff continue to advance the Indigenous Engagement Protocol with other Indigenous Nations and Communities
- Town Staff propose implementing a one-year pilot to make space available at no charge for events that serve the Indigenous community, including Indigenous organizations, groups, families, or individuals. The space would be made available, at zero cost up to a maximum of \$1,200 per year.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the implementation of the reconciliation action and the workplan for 2023.

Background

Federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

The Town acknowledges that it is situated on lands that are home to many Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). Through this acknowledgement, the need and value of understanding more about the rich history of this land and its peoples, which will help the Town be a better neighbour and partner in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its findings and 94 Calls to Action to address the residential schools' legacy and advance the reconciliation process in Canada. Among the Calls to Action are specific

actions for municipalities as well as other levels of governments, the private sector, and all Canadians. Those specific to municipal governments, include:

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Town of Caledon Indigenous Engagement Protocol (IEP)

On March 22, 2022, Council approved the Indigenous Community Engagement Protocol (IEP), a guiding principle for consultation at the Town of Caledon. This Protocol was co-developed by Town Staff from across multiple departments and representatives from the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation's Department of Consultation and Accommodation. The IEP is the first step in respectfully advancing reconciliation as it reflects the mutual desire to improve how the Town engages with Indigenous Nations.

To help refine expectations for proactive and meaningful engagement, Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) worked with the Town to articulate and better understand their interests and priorities as they relate to municipal activities, the anticipated scope and timing of input, and the expected outcomes. This information is particularly important for consideration in the prescribed timelines of the development application review process.

Staff Working Group

On March 7, 2022, staff representing various divisions and departments met to form the Indigenous Engagement Staff Working Group. The objectives of the group are:

- To understand and explore opportunities to engage with Indigenous communities and further the work of the IEP, and
- To establish corporate guidelines and policies to make this engagement meaningful for all
- parties.

Members of the working group have been exploring training and educational opportunities for staff as well as facilitating events that share knowledge of Indigenous history. Some of the highlights of 2022 include:

- June 1, 2022, an internal and external webpage was launched to provide a space to share updates with staff and the community on Indigenous education opportunities and initiatives as well as include the Town's Land Acknowledgment and our commitment to reconciliation
- June 23, 2022, the group virtually hosted Darin Eyenga from Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation who provided a well-attended session for staff on the "History of Indigenous Peoples in Peel"
- Creating a visual Land Acknowledgement that will be posted in Town facilities summer 2022 - Purchasing an Orange Bench to honor "Every Child Matters"; the bench is currently located in the Atrium at Town Hall and will be placed in front of the renovated Humber River Centre in the near future
- September 30, 2022, Town Staff worked with a local Indigenous small business owner to support selling "Every Child Matters" t-shirts to staff to raise awareness to support a community initiative to honor Orange Shirt Day
- October 2022, Town Staff installed an orange crosswalk and an information panel at the Centre for Recreation and Wellness. The panel explains the significance of September 30th, why the crosswalk was installed and a map showing which Treaty lands at Caledon residents on.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Staff worked with MCFN to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which identifies areas of mutual concern and interest, as well as establishes a commitment to shared understanding and ongoing conversations. The MOU was signed in October, 2022 commits that staff will meet to consult with MCFN twice annually to discuss projects and initiatives to identify opportunities that intersect with Indigenous Engagement.

2023 Indigenous Engagement Workplan

In 2023, staff will work to complete the following initiatives:

- Continue to progress the advancement of the IEP through further consultation with MCFN as well as additional Indigenous communities to establish guidelines for how and when to consult in meaningful engagement with Indigenous Nations
- Provide staff a toolkit on how to conduct engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities; this includes when/ why/ how and the right contacts for how to engage on Town projects
- Provide staff and members of the Public with opportunities to learn more about Indigenous Culture and Reconciliation

- Provide education to Town Staff on the history of residential schools with a virtual tour of the Mohawk Institute as facilitated by the Woodland Cultural Centre scheduled for June 2023
- Provide opportunities to meaningfully acknowledge, September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Proposed One-year pilot program to provide space for the Indigenous Community

Staff recommend that the Town suspend rental-related fees associated with use of Town spaces for the purpose of hosting an event that services the Indigenous Community, including Indigenous organizations, groups, families, or individuals. Using the existing Community Affiliation Program as a model to implement this initiative, the maximum amount of in-kind rental related support would be limited to \$1,200 per indigenous group or individual, per year. This recommendation supports the goals of the Indigenous Engagement Protocol to identify culturally appropriate planning and implementation activities and proactively identify barriers and implement solutions to meaningful advance reconciliation in the Indigenous Community. Staff will review the uptake and usage of the program at the end of the one-year pilot term and will report back to determine if there is value in permanently implementing the proposed model.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Providing a waiver of rental fees of up to \$1,200 per group or individual will reduce rental revenues accordingly. Following the pilot program completion, future budgets can be updated to reflect this reduction in revenue based on uptake. Groups or Individuals would be responsible for their own insurance coverage.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Connected Community – Promote community enrichment through support of local groups, enhances partnerships and events.

Improved Service Delivery – explore community hub models for service delivery
Good Governance

ATTACHMENTS

None.