

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: March 3, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Walter Babicz, City Manager

SUBJECT: Community to Community Forum Update

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated March 3, 2023 from the City Manager titled, "Community to Community Forum Update".

PURPOSE:

This report is intended to update Council regarding plans for a Fall 2023 Community to Community Forum involving elected officials from the City of Prince George and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

BACKGROUND:

The term Community to Community Forum (C2C Forum) originated in 1999 when the Ministry of Municipal Affairs asked the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to administer funding to enable local governments and First Nations to connect and build relationships by jointly hosting forums to discuss common issues, challenges, and mutual opportunities for the benefit of their communities.

The C2C funding program provided a maximum of \$5,000 to cover eligible activities associated with the hosting of forums. The City has accessed this funding stream in the past, however a C2C forum has not been held since 2016.

Even though the C2C funding program is not currently accepting applications, a September 2023 (date to be confirmed) event is being planned that will include Lheidli T'enneh First Nation Chief and Council, City of Prince George Council, the Regional District of Fraser Fort George Board, and associated members of senior administration.

To ensure the C2C Forum is considered a gathering as opposed to a meeting, it will be held at a neutral location and the agenda will be structured to facilitate informal sharing of information and discussion. This format ensures that formal rules of procedure do not need to be followed, and that meeting participants do not deal with matters in a way that moves them toward utilization of local government decision-making processes.

Administration is also planning a "Staff to Staff" Forum (S2S Forum) in October 2023 for senior staff from the three organizations to also informally share information and build relationships.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan includes a strategic priority to "focus on meaningful communication and relationship development to advance shared priorities". The further development of the City's relationship with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation is a key deliverable associated with this strategic priority.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Community to Community Forums enable local governments and First Nations to connect and build relationships through informal discussion of common issues, challenges, and mutual opportunities. Even though the C2C funding program administered by UBCM is not currently accepting applications, a September 2023 event is being planned. It will be followed by a S2S Forum in October 2023.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Chris Bone, Senior Manager – Civic Initiatives & Partnerships

Meeting Date: 2023/03/27