

STAFF REPORT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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DATE: January 26, 2024

TO: STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

NAME AND TITLE: GARTH FRIZZELL, CHAIR, STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Conversation on the City of Prince George Reconciliation Framework

ATTACHMENT(S): City of Prince George Reconciliation Framework

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the report dated January 26, 2024 and titled, Conversation on the City of Prince George Reconciliation Framework.”

PURPOSE:

This report is for information. It is intended to provide the committee with space to discuss the City of Prince George Reconciliation Framework and related action plan.

BACKGROUND:

In May of 2010, Council resolved to join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (now called Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities) and directed its Policy Advisory Committee at the time to “develop a strategy to meet the commitments of the Common Declaration for Council’s consideration”.

The Policy Advisory Committee at the time did not develop a strategy to meet the commitments, and Council’s 2011 – 2012 Strategic Plan did not identify the development of an action plan to meet Coalition commitments as a priority. As such, the corporate work plan did not include the implementation of initiatives to combat racism and discrimination, and/or to foster equality, and respect for all citizens.

Following the naming of the Lheidli T’enneh as an official host of the 2015 Canada Winter Games, attention turned to how the city could further advance Reconciliation. As such, Administration developed a Reconciliation Framework guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, and its Coalition commitment to promote “the respect, knowledge, and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Indigenous and racialized communities in the cultural fabric of the municipality”. The City’s Reconciliation Framework was highlighted as good practice by the Coalition in its toolkit titled, Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples - A Holistic Approach: Toolkit for Inclusive Municipalities in Canada and Beyond.

Over the past seven years, initiatives such as those highlighted below, have been implemented in an effort to advance Reconciliation. This list is not exhaustive and is meant to help foster discussion.

- Renaming of Fort George Park to Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park
- Permanent Presence of the Lheidli T'enneh Flag at City Hall
- Staff to Staff Gathering
- Tri-Party Memorandum on Cooperation and Communication and its recent update.
- Leadership Reconciliation Symposium
- Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park Pavilion
- Indigenous Awareness Online Training Program for City Staff (modules 1 & 2 are active).
- Daycare Development Partnerships (Land Disposition) with Lheidli T'enneh and the Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Raise Up Our Kids Initiative – Nusdeh Yoh School
- Sept 2023 C2C and October 2023 S2S.
- Ongoing G2G meetings.
- Collaborative naming of Dakelh Ti Road in 2023.
- Work around a CoPG land acknowledgement policy.
- Incorporation of Carrier language in civic facilities (new aquatic center).
- Hiring of a Manager, Intergovernmental Relations with direction to focus on MOU related items.

In March of 2022, a Notice of Motion Condemning Hate, Racism, and Discrimination was made by Councillors Frizzell and Scott which stated, “that the City of Prince George condemns hate and racism in all its forms and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Canadian Cities Against Racism and Discrimination”. Council approved the motion unanimously and directed staff to review the commitments of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and return a report in mid-June with concrete recommendations on the next steps forward.

The Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities also encourages member municipalities to develop an Action Plan but emphasizes that the process is flexible so that each municipality can address its own inclusion-related needs. Council’s 2022-2024 Strategic Plan includes a City Government and Infrastructure Goal to “Act on Calls to Action Established by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada” through the continued building of relations with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and urban Indigenous organizations” with two identified actions, noted below.

- Continue development and implementation of the City’s Online Indigenous Training program.
- Continue to build relation with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and Urban Indigenous organizations.

As such, staff recommended the development of an action plan to advance Council’s Reconciliation priority as a concrete next step to ensure the city continues to honour its commitments as a member of the Coalition of Inclusive Communities. Council approved this recommendation, in 2022 but due to staffing changes it is not presently clear if administration has returned a report to Council with further details regarding the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Work around the Reconciliation Action Plan and framework is understood to support the Strategic Pillar of City Government and Infrastructure Priorities. Specifically, focusing on meaningful communication and relationship development to advance shared priorities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

No financial considerations are contained within this report. Future work around the reconciliation action plan may have costs associated which will be brought to attention in future reporting pending direction.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This report offers space for the committee to discuss the existing Reconciliation Framework and status of the Reconciliation Action Plan as it is understood currently.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

PREPARED BY: Eric Depenau, Manager, Intergovernmental Relations

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/02/12