

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MISSISSAUGA OF CREDIT FIRST NATION

FROM:

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

A Memorandum of Understand with the Mississauga of Credit First Nation and Relationship Guide will deepen meaningful engagement and reconciliation with other First Nation, Métis, Inuit communities, organizations within the GTA serving First Nations, Métis, Inuit communities residing in Vaughan.

Report Highlights

- The City of Vaughan's Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion recognizes the unique status and diversity of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and their right to self-determination.
- The City is committed to meaningful engagement and reconciliation with First Nations communities, in particular, Mississauga of Credit First Nation, with whom the City holds Treaty 13.
- The City seeks to develop and Memorandum of Understanding with the Mississauga of Credit First Nation that honours and affirms diverse Indigenous ways of knowing and being, supporting economic development and prosperity, increasing civic engagement, learning and education about diverse Indigenous community groups, and reinforcing rights to self-determination and self-governance.

Recommendation

1. That staff be directed to formally engage in discussions with the Mississauga of Credit First Nation with the intent to develop a Memorandum of Understanding and Relationship Guide.

Background

First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Turtle Island hold a unique position in Canada. The City of Vaughan recognizes its special relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Anti-Indigenous racism is a particular type of racism experienced by First Nations, Inuit and Métis people of Canada. Ongoing race-based discrimination, negative stereotyping and injustice are experienced by Indigenous people. This includes ideas and practices that establish, maintain and perpetuate power imbalances, systemic barriers and inequitable outcomes that stem from the legacy of colonial policies and practices in Canada.

Anti-Indigenous racism is perpetual, pervasive and systemic in Canada. It is entrenched into societal practices that reflect and reinforce oppression, marginalization, prejudice, discrimination and/or exclusion directed at First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous communities across all institutions and structures and is rooted in their unique experiences of colonization in Canada.

The City recognizes the legacies of injustice and colonialism against the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people of Canada. The City recognizes Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report and Calls to Action and is committed to meaningfully advancing reconciliation. The City also recognizes the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report and Calls for Justice and acknowledges that anti-Indigenous racism has contributed to violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

The City and the Mississauga of Credit First Nation (MCFN) applied jointly for a grant from the Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative. Hon. Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Councillor Erma Ferrell of the Mississauga of Credit First Nation Band Council jointly participated in the grant to support a memorandum of understanding (MOU). While the grant application was unsuccessful, the City and MCFN have continued favourable discussions on the MOU.

Early discussions regarding the MOU, to be developed in collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations, will engage in work that focuses on honouring and reinforcing diverse Indigenous ways of knowing and being, supporting economic development and prosperity, increasing civic engagement, learning and education about

diverse Indigenous community groups, and reinforcing rights to self-determination and self-governance. The objective aligns with the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan and with the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation – Calls to Action. Attachment 1 contains a copy of the Calls to Action. Calls to Action 40 – 45, 48, 57, 75, 76, and 92 specifically relate to municipalities.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Item 10, Report No. 21, of the Committee of the Whole](#), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 5, 2017.

[June 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole \(1\) Report: Indigenous Land Acknowledgement](#).

Analysis and Options

The MOU and relationship building process will serve as a framework to engage First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities with whom the City has obligations regarding Duty to Consult and meaningful reconciliation. The relationship building process will center the voices of Indigenous community members in collaboratively addressing anti-Indigenous racism and meaningfully commit to a path of reconciliation. Members of diverse Indigenous communities can meaningfully share their ideas on addressing anti-Indigenous racism in partnership with Indigenous residents and community groups.

City intends engage the procurement process to hire a member of the Mississauga Nation or an external consultant endorsed by the Mississauga Nation as a consultant or consulting firm to guide the process to develop the MOU, develop the MOU in collaboration with City staff, and develop a Relationship Guide to replicate the process with other First Nation, Métis, Inuit communities, organizations within the GTA serving First Nations, Métis, Inuit communities residing in Vaughan. The process will inform the development of a report, recommendations and multi-year action plan for meaningful reconciliation with the First Peoples of Canada and address anti-Indigenous racism.

Financial Impact

It is expected that consultation will cost approximately \$100, 000 hire a member of the Mississauga Nation or an external consultant endorsed by the Mississauga Nation as a consultant or consulting firm to guide the process to develop the MOU, develop the MOU in collaboration with City staff, and develop a Relationship Guide to replicate the process with other First Nation, Métis, Inuit communities, organizations within the GTA serving First Nations, Métis, Inuit communities residing in Vaughan.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The federal government is leading the efforts to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship with Indigenous peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is detailing the Crown's progress in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission 94 Calls to Action. The Crown aims to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to address past harms, support strong and healthy communities, and advance self-determination and prosperity.

At the provincial level, Ontario's Ministry of Indigenous Affairs is working with Indigenous partners to address the dark legacy of residential schools and the social and economic challenges that face Indigenous communities after centuries of colonization and discrimination.

The Association of Municipalities in Ontario (AMO) has stated that strengthening relations with Indigenous people is important to Ontario's municipal governments and have voiced support for reconciliation. AMO's '[Municipal Governments and the Crown's 'Duty to Consult'](#)' advocates for a clear, all-of-provincial government approach around the Duty to Consult that reflects municipal capacity limits while also respecting the rights of First Nations and Indigenous communities.

AMO continues to advocate for greater municipal inclusion in land claim negotiations and treaty implementation scenarios when there is a municipal impact. To support this effort, the AMO Board has endorsed three resource documents for municipalities since August 2021:

1. [An overview of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's \(TRC's\) Calls to Action that municipal governments can address.](#)
2. [Ideas and options for what municipal leaders/councils can do to better support and engage their Indigenous residents and neighbours at this time.](#)
3. [A guidance document is to support AMO members in creating Indigenous-Municipal Relationship Agreements.](#)

Conclusion

The City is committed to establishing and building meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities, addressing anti-Indigenous racism and collaborating with Indigenous communities to reflect Indigenous priorities into City programs and services.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachments

1. [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.](#)
2. [Indigenous-Municipal Relationship Agreements A Guide for Municipal Leaders](#), Association of Municipalities Ontario.
3. [What Municipal Leaders Can Do to Better Support Indigenous Residents and Neighbours At This Time](#), Association of Municipalities Ontario.

Prepared by

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Approved by



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