

# BRIEFING

Item # 5.2.1

Community Services Briefing to  
SPC on Community and Protective Services  
2019 September 11

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CPS2019-0923

## **Calgary Indigenous Relations Office (IRO) Engagement and the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC) Governance Review Briefing**

### **PURPOSE OF BRIEFING**

Council directed Administration to report back on the progress of meaningful engagement with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous Calgarians on the establishment of the Calgary Indigenous Relations Office (IRO). In addition, Council directed Administration to provide an update on the governance review of the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC) to occur in conjunction with the work on developing the Calgary IRO (see Attachment 1 for detailed Council Direction). This Briefing provides an update on both the engagement process and the governance review and highlights the learnings to date. These updates are being brought forward together given the relationship between the two.

The establishment of the Calgary IRO represents a significant shift and demonstrates an increase in maturity in how the City of Calgary approaches Indigenous Relations. This offers an opportunity to evaluate the role of CAUAC and to recommend required changes. It is critical that an evolution of CAUAC is in concert with the establishment of the Calgary IRO so that the purpose, roles and responsibilities are complimentary. Braiding the engagement findings for the Calgary IRO with the governance review of CAUAC will ensure that the wisdom of the past and current best practices form integral components of the way forward.

The Calgary IRO budget, approved in 2018, is being reduced to meet the required \$60 million reduction for 2019. However, the work associated with establishing the Calgary IRO and the CAUAC governance review will continue, albeit at an adjusted pace.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **Calgary IRO Engagement Update**

The Calgary IRO engagement is being conducted in four phases: Elder and Knowledge Keeper Engagement; Community Engagement; Ceremonial Validation; and Synthesis (Attachment 2). At the core of the engagement approach is Indigenous methodology that focuses on data collection through oral tradition (sharing circles/dialogues) with the collected knowledge validated through ceremony. Phase One of the engagement has been completed. Phase One involved gathering a diverse community of 21 Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to inform the philosophical vision and core functions of the Calgary IRO. Phase Two is currently underway and includes targeted community engagement, with further exploration of the Calgary IRO purpose and core functions (expected completion Q4 2019). The learnings gathered through Phase One and Phase Two to-date, demonstrate alignment with the *Indigenous*

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*Policy's Ways of Knowing, Ways of Engaging, Ways of Building Relationships and Ways Toward Equitable Environments* and the Council-endorsed Calgary IRO core functions: Strategy and Leadership; Legal Advice and Reporting; Cultural Training and Advice; Relationship Coordination; and Engagement with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous Calgarians. See Attachment 3 for highlights of engagement learnings to date.

Phase Three will take place in Q4 2019 and involves circling back to the Elders, Knowledge Keepers and the community participants to validate, through ceremony, the information gathered. Phase IV includes the creation of a summary report that will also be validated orally (Q1 and Q2 2020).

## **CAUAC Governance Review Update**

The CAUAC governance review is underway, with a focus on the interconnectedness of the establishment of the Calgary IRO and the governance of CAUAC. As a key stakeholder, CAUAC has provided feedback consistently throughout the Calgary IRO scoping process and development phases. Key learnings that have emerged from the governance review indicate that there is an opportunity to: create a more clearly defined and understood purpose for CAUAC; develop targeted recruitment and Indigenous-based orientation processes; ensure that CAUAC evolves into a collaborative role that complements the Calgary IRO; create a governance structure that integrates Indigenous worldviews; and create well-defined roles and responsibilities. Additional details can be found in Attachment 4. The review will continue into Q4 2019 and includes: validation of the learnings with CAUAC and the Elders that have been engaged; completion of a modernized Terms of Reference; and updated orientation and governance materials. The 2018 and 2019 recruitment processes for the committee have included a more advanced skills matrix and an interview to target more specific qualifications for committee members.

A report on the full outcome of the Calgary IRO engagement and the CAUAC governance review will be presented at SPC on CPS in Q2 2020.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Attachment 1 – Council Direction Calgary IRO and CAUAC
2. Attachment 2 – Calgary IRO Engagement Phases
3. Attachment 3 – Calgary IRO Engagement Learnings To Date
4. Attachment 4 – CAUAC Governance Review Key Learnings