

## Update on Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 (MNAR3) Policy Implementation Guide (The Guide)

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### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Executive Committee recommend Council direct Administration to pause the work of the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 Policy Implementation Guide (The Guide) and seek to re-engage in this work no later than Q4 2023, or upon notice from the new Calgary Métis leadership.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The City of Calgary Indigenous Relations Office, in consultation with The Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 (MNAR3) is requesting a pause of development of the MNAR3 Policy Implementation Guide (The Guide) until Q4 2023.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? This means that the provincial Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and its Calgary leadership will be given sufficient time to complete the organizational realignment and ensure the correct organizational structure is prepared to re-engage with The City in the co-creation of The Guide.
- Why does this matter? This deferral will allow for the provincial Métis Nation of Alberta to establish its new legal entity, including governance offices and staffing in Calgary.
- This deferral will not affect other projects with MNAR3 currently being undertaken and addressing current issues as requested by MNAR3.
- The deferral will not affect other ongoing and future projects with The City and MNAR3. The MNAR3 has developed the MNAR3 Consultation and Engagement Guide which includes protocols for The City to follow when engaging with MNAR3 (Attachment 2).
- Previous Council direction (Attachment 1) directed Administration to conduct work to establish a policy implementation guide.

### DISCUSSION

At the 2017 December 17 Regular Meeting of Council, The City of Calgary Indigenous Policy was approved with the following direction to Administration to address the lack of inclusion of the Métis Nation in the Policy, as well as misinformation on the history of the Métis people in Calgary. Additionally, The Guide was meant to clarify and add specific cultural and organizational requirements of MNAR3 to the existing 2017 Indigenous Policy. The Guide also identified mutually beneficial projects MNAR3 wished The City to respond to, as well as articulating a desire from the MNAR3 to be an active and long-term contributor to Reconciliation with The City of Calgary through official consultation and voluntary engagement.

#### Technical Information Relevant to the Request:

Since its emergence as a distinct Indigenous people in the historic North-West in the late 1700s, the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-determination and self-government has been fought for and cherished. In what is now known as Alberta, the Métis people have built the MNA—the government of the Métis Nation within Alberta—for almost a century.

Currently, the MNA operates under the Alberta's *Societies Act*. In June 2019, the MNA and the Government of Canada signed a Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA), which formally recognizes that the Métis Nation within Alberta holds the inherent right to self-government recognized by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The

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MGRSA also sets out a process for the recognition of an MNA Constitution—based on the Métis Nation’s inherent right to self-government—in federal legislation.

From 2022 August 4 to the 7, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) held its 94<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly in Calgary, Alberta, where delegates voted overwhelmingly in favor of moving forward with a province-wide ratification vote on the draft Constitution for the Métis Nation within Alberta. On December 1, 96.9 per cent of eligible Métis citizens voted in favor of ratifying the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution. By Q4 2023, the Métis Nation of Alberta and Regional Office (Region 3) will transfer into a new legal entity and will be re-zoned to align closely with the Calgary boundaries. As the MNAR3 will no longer exist after August 2023, The City will have to negotiate The Guide with new territorial and district leadership.

### Work to date:

This re-engagement considered work that had been started in 2018 and was put on hold both at the request of the MNAR3 and due to resourcing challenges at The City. The City of Calgary, Indigenous Relations Office (IRO) began re-engaging in March 2022 with MNAR3 to co-create the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 Policy Implementation Guide to guide future work with the City of Calgary.

### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- |                                     |   |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Public Engagement was undertaken                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Public/Interested parties were informed         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public Communication or Engagement was not required | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |

The MNAR3 is the sole external interested party, as defined by The City of Calgary; impacted by this work, and dialogue was undertaken to come to this recommendation.

After the Assembly, President Gervais of the MNAR3, in conversation with the IRO, identified that it would be best to defer the work of The Guide until Q4 2023 to ensure the correct political alignment and response to the motion. As the MNA Constitution is vetted through the Federal Government processes throughout 2023, the MNAR3 wishes to ensure that the Calgary Region will still be formally consulted, and voluntarily engaged on relevant City of Calgary work after the realignment. The MNAR3 also wants to ensure the current projects being undertaken continue without deferral.

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Social

If we complete this work without the input of the MNAR3, The City risks damage to the positive relationships that have been developed throughout 2022.

#### Environmental

There are no environmental impacts identified in delaying the completion of this work given it was at the request of MNAR3.

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### **Economic**

There are no direct economic impacts identified. When the work is complete there will be opportunities for economic reconciliation that will be brought forward through the regular budgeting process.

### **Service and Financial Implications**

There are no service and financial implications as staff time for this project will be reassigned to other IRO lead projects.

### **Other: Completion of The Guide**

The co-creation of The Guide is mandated by Council.

### **RISK**

Risks as identified by the deferral are as follows. Should the deferral not be passed:

1. The service implication is that The Guide will not reflect the new Métis Nation of Alberta organizational structure after 2023.
2. The MNAR3, currently tasked with the Nation's own organizational realignment, staff, and leadership will have limited time to focus on the multiple steps involved in the co-creation and vetting process.
3. The premise of relationship building and co-creation of mutually beneficial policies, programs, teams, and activities with Nation leadership will be compromised.
4. The Guide will be inaccurate and will need to be re-created with new leadership.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Previous Council Direction
2. Métis Nation Region 3 Consultation and Engagement Guide
3. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Chris Arthurs, General Manager	People, Innovation, and Collaboration	Approve
Katie Black, General Manager	Community Services	Inform
David Duckworth, City Manager	City Manager's Office	Inform
Jill Floen	Law, Legislative Services and Security	Inform