

## **Flags Displayed in the Council Chamber**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 2017 April 24, Administration was directed to engage with the member Nations of Treaty 7, the Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3 and the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC) to determine which flags would be appropriate to display in the Council Chamber. Administration was directed to return to Council on 2017 September 11. At that time, Council approved a deferral until the same time as Council further considered the Indigenous Policy Framework. While good progress is being made and engagement continues, a recommendation regarding which flags to display in the Chamber will not be ready until early 2018.

#### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approve the request to defer Administration's response and direct Administration to return to Council in Q1 2018 with a recommendation on which Indigenous flags to display in the Chamber.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

At the 2017 April 24 Council Meeting, a motion arising directed:

“that with respect to Report CPS2017-0306, that Council direct Administration to engage with the member nations of Treaty 7 (the Kainai Nation, the Piikani Nation, the Siksika Nation, the Tsuu T'ina Nation, the Bears paw Nation, the Chiniki Nation, and the Wesley Nation), to engage with the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 and to engage with Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (“CAUAC”) and seek their advice to determine which flags would be appropriate to display in Council Chambers to recognize and honour our Indigenous neighbours and further the City's efforts on the journey towards reconciliation. Administration is to report back no later than September 11, 2017 with a recommendation of additional flags to be displayed in Council Chambers”.

At the 2017 September 11 Council meeting, Administration was directed to return to Council with a recommendation on which Indigenous flags to display in the Chamber at the same time as Council further considered the Indigenous Policy Framework.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2016 November, Council adopted a new Flag Policy which included a provision adding the Treaty 7 Flag to the main bank of flags in front of the Municipal Complex. This provision was added in response to a recommendation made by CAUAC in their report White Goose Flying which noted that adding the Treaty 7 flag would be an actionable initiative that would contribute to the call to “reaffirm and renew Treaty relationships, and maintain them for the future”. A flag raising ceremony was held on 2017 March 23 at the Municipal Complex. At that time, there were no additional recommendations for the display of flags. However, the Flag Policy allows for additional flags to be displayed in the Chamber if approved by Council.

Currently, in addition to the Canadian, Alberta and Calgary flags, there are a number of flags of military regiments and paramilitary organizations displayed along the south west wall of the

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Chamber. These flags have been displayed for some time, usually after having been presented to Council, and are reflective of these groups' contributions to Calgary.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

#### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

An engagement strategy was developed in consultation with the Engage unit of Customer Service and Communications and Calgary Neighbourhoods. The strategy is meant to provide an appropriate approach to gather information from our Indigenous neighbours.

The engagement strategy is being implemented. Since the last report to Council in 2017 September, letters outlining the initiative have been sent to all Indigenous neighbours, along with follow-up emails and telephone calls. To date, nearly all Indigenous partners have been contacted and valuable feedback has been received. However, more feedback will be forthcoming and Administration will continue to engage as directed to ensure an appropriate and informed recommendation can be presented to Council. Such a recommendation is expected to be ready for Council consideration in Q1 2018.

#### **Strategic Alignment**

N/A

#### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

N/A

#### **Financial Capacity**

##### ***Current and Future Operating Budget:***

N/A

##### ***Current and Future Capital Budget:***

N/A

#### **Risk Assessment**

N/A

#### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Deferring a recommendation on which Indigenous flags to display in the Chamber allows Administration sufficient time to undertake an appropriate engagement strategy with our Indigenous neighbours.