

CALGARY ABORIGINAL URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the first annual progress report on the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee's (CAUAC) 10-Year Strategic Plan. This report outlines achievements from 2014 March to 2015 February that advance the objectives set out in CAUAC's Strategic Plan (Attachment 1) and seeks direction to develop a Council policy on Aboriginal issues.

CAUAC implemented its revised Terms of Reference (Attachment 2) this past year. The new governance structure greatly enhances the committee's ability to advance its strategic goals. To demonstrate the progress made, CAUAC is reporting on 12 specific activities that support those strategic goals. The next critical step in the Strategic Plan is to develop an Aboriginal Policy in 2015.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S):

The SPC on Community and Protective Services recommend that Council direct Administration to support CAUAC in developing an Aboriginal Policy Framework to be brought back to the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than 2017 April.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 1980 June 03, Council approved CS80-24-1, the establishment of the Native Urban Affairs Committee.

On 1987 April 16, through CS87-20, Council approved the change of committee name from Native Urban Affairs committee to Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC).

On 1999 October 06, through CPS99-66, Council approved the summary report from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples for information.

On 2002 February 04, through CPS2001-66, Council approved the recommendations from the Native Archaeological Site Inventory Decision and Instruction.

On 2013 February 25, Council approved the motion arising from the Priorities and Finance Committee on 2013 January 22, with regards to report PFC2013-0072, directing Administration to work with CAUAC to undertake a review of the current Terms of Reference, together with the development of a new strategic plan that reflects current conditions and report back no later than 2014 January.

On 2014 February 10, through PFC2014-0083, Council approved the CAUAC revised Terms of Reference and 10-Year Strategic Plan. Council directed CAUAC to report annually to Council starting in 2015, through the SPC on Community and Protective Services, on progress towards their Strategic Plan.

On 2014 October 20, through N2014-0835, Council approved the appointment of community members to serve on the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee for the 2014/2016 term.

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BACKGROUND

The City has a long history with Aboriginal people. At the request of the Treaty 7 Chiefs, CAUAC was established in 1979 as an advisory committee to Council. According to Statistics Canada's 2011 National Household Survey the City of Calgary is home to 28,905 Aboriginal People.

CAUAC's 10-Year Strategic Plan was developed over the course of three years beginning in 2011 to enhance understanding of the roles and contributions of Aboriginal people in Calgary. This Strategic Plan was created to improve Aboriginal inclusion practices so that The City's decision making and policy planning can be more effective and contribute to a prosperous and inspiring Calgary. This activity also fosters a renewed commitment to Calgary's Aboriginal citizens.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

In this past year, CAUAC shifted its focus from community issues and services to corporate and system-level activity with The City. This shift has opened up opportunities for enhanced Aboriginal inclusion and participation in The City's decision-making process. The committee's Strategic Plan, revised Terms of Reference and new structure have made a significant difference in CAUAC's leadership, engagement and commitment by promoting Aboriginal perspectives on history and their impact on planning. CAUAC has also continued to be actively engaged in the Aboriginal community and has created important connections between The City and the Aboriginal community.

CAUAC is working diligently to implement its Strategic Plan at various levels in The Corporation. Detailed activities are included in Attachment 3 and a table of highlights is presented here:

Goal from the Strategic Plan	Related Activities
Goal 3 - The Story of Moh'kinsstis– The Foundation – To raise awareness with residents and visitors to Calgary that the first settlement of the area surrounding Calgary began with First Nation people's initial settlement of the area. The Moh'kinsstis story acknowledges the unique historical place and contemporary experiences of Aboriginal people in the human history of this area.	Aboriginal stories and names of plants, fish and bird species and other oral traditional knowledge were included on signage at St. Patrick's River Passage Park.
	CAUAC assisted in drafting the content of the Mayor's Reconciliation Proclamation and based some of the subject matter on the Moh'kinsstis story.
Goal 4 - Akak'stiman – Dual Paradigms (governance structures) – Educating business units on Aboriginal paradigms in order to improve current policies, practices and procedures to provide alternative strategies in	Aboriginal blessing ceremonies occurred for various events hosted by The City, including the 2013 Flood Commemoration and the re-opening of Sandy Beach Bridge.

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communications with the Aboriginal community. Note: <i>Dual Paradigms is a model used for application of Western thinking and Aboriginal thinking.</i>	CAUAC supported the <i>Making Treaty 7</i> theatrical production to foster the understanding among Calgarians that that we are all Treaty people, rather than placing the burden of the treaties only on First Nations people in Treaty 7.
Goal 7 - Internal alignment of CAUAC to The City's policies, plans and initiatives. External alignment with stakeholders, who have a vested interest to partner with The City of Calgary to advance Aboriginal interests, with each other's work.	A First Nations advisory stakeholder group was established to support the Paskapoo Slopes project with The City and Trinity Developers Corporation. An Aboriginal protocols document was developed specifically for this engagement process.
	CAUAC participated in an annual conference hosted by Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative (CUAI). The conference represented an opportunity for external stakeholders to connect on urban Aboriginal issues.
	CAUAC participated in the development of the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative's Aboriginal goal strategy, and the Aboriginal transfer ceremony to Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC).

CAUAC's development and implementation of their 10-Year Strategic Plan has resulted in significant progress in one year. These achievements include: strengthening relationships with the Aboriginal community, increasing inclusion of Aboriginal subject matter in planning and decision making across business units, and building the presence of Aboriginal people in The City's public celebrations, as evidenced by the Flood Commemoration and the Mayor's Reconciliation Proclamation. Furthermore, CAUAC has increased their presence as a Council committee by providing strategic advice on activities that impact Aboriginal interests.

The implementation of CAUAC's new Terms of Reference has increased participation and engagement by its membership with meaningful and measurable activity in this past year. The Terms of Reference are co-managed with City Clerk's Office, and this partnership has improved the selection process of new CAUAC members. The CAUAC chair and vice-chair roles are filled by Aboriginal members and this has significantly increased Aboriginal leadership and expression on the committee.

The Strategic Plan (Strategy 7.7) states that CAUAC will create a City of Calgary Aboriginal Inclusion Policy. It references Imagine Calgary's target that 'all public institutions and systems create and implement an urban Aboriginal policy that recognizes colonial history experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.'

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A need was identified for a policy to inform City decision-making by building on practices that create partnerships with First Nations and Aboriginal people. As such, CAUAC is asking for direction from Council to develop an Aboriginal Policy Framework (which has been renamed from the Aboriginal Inclusion Policy to better reflect the nature of how the work will be used across The Corporation). The policy framework will provide direction for planning and engagement processes and will establish clear protocol to be used in relationship-building with Aboriginal communities. CAUAC intends to work with and engage an internal advisory committee from various business units across The Corporation to help develop the policy in association with external stakeholders as required. It has been noted by business units including Local Area Planning & Implementation, Transportation Planning, Water Resources and Recreation Arts & Culture that an Aboriginal Policy Framework would be beneficial in mitigating unforeseen and potential risks such as moving significant cultural artifacts or burial sites without proper consultation. The current situation is that CAUAC responds on an ad hoc basis as projects or concerns arise. An Aboriginal Policy Framework would design a foundation from which The City can work to build relationships with local First Nations communities and urban Aboriginal populations.

The need for such a policy framework is evidenced by the fact that, in 2014 and early 2015, different divisions and business units requested CAUAC and issue strategist support for:

- First Nations engagement with respect to land use and transit planning related to First Nations archaeology on Paskapoo Slopes and the Green Line Southeast Transit way;
- First Nations engagement with Water Resources on wastewater treatment and in preparation for negotiations with Siksika Chief and Council; and
- Aboriginal inclusion in public art practices with the Public Art Program.

CAUAC anticipates Aboriginal policy framework development will take approximately two years. The first year is devoted to working with three stakeholder groups including CAUAC, City business units, and Aboriginal stakeholders to develop a policy framework, and the second year would be working to refine the policy as part of Administration's role in alignment with City Clerk's Office to bring the policy proposal forward to Council.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

This year CAUAC worked with a variety of business units and partners to integrate Aboriginal and First Nations engagement processes, concepts and philosophies in The City's planning and decision making.

Through the planning process, Local Area Planning & Implementation engaged with First Nations Elders on the Paskapoo Slopes developer's application. The Elders made numerous references to historical and ecology resources, and the impact on cultural sustainability.

In December, Water Resources made contact with Siksika Nation regarding the upcoming Bonnybrook Treatment Plant's review process. The First Nations engagement and relationships will be valuable in the upcoming review process, and in future negotiations as downstream users.

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CAUAC engaged with community partners like the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) on collective projects that impact both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. Projects such as the CPRI Aboriginal Strategy development, Making Treaty 7, Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative (CUAI) and the Mayor's Proclamation on Reconciliation are projects that address a renewal of commitment, respect and co-operation between The City and its Aboriginal communities.

Strategic Alignment

CAUAC's strategic direction and the development of an Aboriginal policy is aligned to the following:

Imagine CALGARY: By 2020, all public institutions and systems create and implement an urban Aboriginal policy that recognizes the detrimental colonial history experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit people; reduces barriers to public participation and governance; and supports economic, social and political advancement.

Fair Calgary Policy: Specifically as it relates to Aboriginal Peoples: In the implementation of these principles and in the development of public policy, The City of Calgary will acknowledge the unique historical place and contemporary experiences of Aboriginal people in the history of this community.

2015 – 2018 Council Priorities:

A city of inspiring neighbourhoods. N10 Review The City's heritage processes to improve the protection and enhancement of heritage assets. Focus Area: Working with heritage-based community groups to raise awareness and conserve Calgary's cultural landscapes.

A prosperous city. P12.1 Steward relevant policies and strategies that address the needs of vulnerable populations including Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and immigrants.

Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative: Aboriginal Goal. 4.4 All Aboriginal peoples are equal participants in Calgary's prosperous future. In order to meaningfully address the unique issues facing Calgary's Aboriginal people, the CPRI proposes to work intentionally with the Aboriginal community to develop an Aboriginal Poverty Reduction Strategy over the next year, which will be implemented as an integral component of the overall Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

CAUAC's 10-Year Strategic Plan seeks to address governance systems so that the City, as a public institution can create and implement an urban Aboriginal policy that recognizes the detrimental and colonial history experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit people; a plan that reduces barriers to public participation and governance, and supports economic, social and political advancement.

Environmental

The 10-Year Strategic Plan endorses the Moh'kinsstis story which describes the traditional territory of First Nations people, the local history pre-dating Calgary. The story represents a way

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of life and connection with the environment, including stewardship of the land and resources. Elders engaged in City projects this past year acknowledge that traditionally, as grandparents (referring to the Elder role), they need to teach their children to become stewards of the land. They need to keep the land, air, and water safe, clean and sacred. When First Nations engagement occurs, this history informs The City's environmental planning, especially with respect to historical resources, water and ecology.

Economic

The Aboriginal population between the ages of 16 to 35 is one of the fastest growing populations in Calgary and Canada, and these growing numbers have a positive impact on the local labour force, including future hiring practices of The City of Calgary. CAUAC has engaged with Human Resources Diversity & Inclusion to begin to develop a plan for Aboriginal recruitment and retention at The City.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Through Community & Neighbourhood Services, The City provides operational and administrative support to CAUAC and its activities. There are no additional operating budget impacts associated with CAUAC's 10-Year Strategic Plan.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital budget impacts associated with CAUAC's 10-Year Strategic Plan.

Risk Assessment

In the first year of implementing their 10-Year Strategic Plan, CAUAC has not encountered any potential risks or setbacks. Proceeding with its implementation including the development of an Aboriginal Policy Framework would enhance The City's relationships with Aboriginal and First Nations communities, especially with respect to historical resources and planning. Without the direction provided by the Strategic Plan and the policy, the committee would have limited impact to advance interests on behalf of the Aboriginal community.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

CAUAC is seeking direction from Council to develop an Aboriginal Policy Framework so that The Corporation's divisions and business units include Aboriginal perspectives into their planning processes. This will assist The City in proactively managing a cohesive response to all areas that involve First Nations and Aboriginal engagement.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. CAUAC Strategic Plan Summary
2. CAUAC Council Approved Terms of Reference 2014
3. CAUAC Summary of Strategic Plan Accomplishments for 2014