

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2020 January 22

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 3520 20
Reference: CHC Projects General

SUBJECT: PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORY CONFERENCE

PURPOSE: To authorize delivery of a presentation at the Pacific Northwest Labour Heritage Conference and allocate funding for related expenses.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** an allocation of up to \$800 be authorized for expenditure from the 2020 Boards, Committees and Council Budget to participate in the Pacific Northwest Labour Heritage Conference in support of public education about the community's significant history of working class activism.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At its 28 November 2019 meeting, the Community Heritage Commission directed staff to submit a session proposal for the Pacific Northwest Labour History Association, and to prepare a report seeking approval if the proposal were accepted by the conference organizers. A proposal was submitted that highlights the City's recent research on the history of protest and political resistance by unions, working people, and Indigenous people in Burnaby. The proposal has been subsequently accepted by the Conference organizers. This report seeks authorization for participation in the conference, and for funding for related costs.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Recognition and conservation of heritage is identified in Burnaby's Official Community Plan, which identifies Heritage Planning as one of its goals: "To provide opportunities for increased awareness and the conservation of the City's unique natural, cultural, archaeological and built heritage."

Increasing awareness of the City's unique history through participation in the Pacific Northwest Labour Heritage Conference is supported by the following goals and sub-goals of the Corporate Strategic Plan:

- **A Connected Community**
 - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- **An Inclusive Community**
 - Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging

3.0 PACIFIC NORTHWEST LABOUR HISTORY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The 52nd annual Pacific Northwest Labour History Conference will be held May 8 to 10, 2020 at the Simon Fraser University campus in Vancouver, in association with the SFU Labour Studies program and the B.C. Labour Heritage Centre. Organized by the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, the international conference welcomes delegates from British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. It is a public history event that brings historians, educators, unionists, and others together to share information on past events that shaped the labour movement in the U.S. and Canada. Participating in the conference provides the City of Burnaby with an opportunity to highlight the City's research and commemorative projects that celebrate the history of working people in Burnaby.

The 90-minute session featuring City of Burnaby staff and partners is titled "Sharing the History of Working People in Burnaby" and includes two separate presentations:

Presentation I: *Songs and Sites of Resistance* features short presentations about some of the protests and strikes that are part of Burnaby's history presented alongside historic labour and protest songs performed by the Solidarity Notes Labour Choir. Topics include the Industrial Workers of the World and Burnaby lumber workers, working women, and political prisoners at Oakalla Prison.

Presentation II: *William Pritchard in Burnaby* features the story of former Reeve (Mayor) and Burnaby Freeman William (Bill) Pritchard. The presentation will tell Pritchard's story against a backdrop of community activism in Burnaby in the 1930s, and include information on how the City of Burnaby has made this research accessible to the community through a heritage plaque at the Tommy Douglas Library, and a video vignette available through the Heritage Burnaby website.

4.0 FINANCING

Costs for attendance and preparation by City staff will be covered by the operating budgets of the Planning Department and Burnaby Village Museum. Funding of \$800 is requested from the 2020 Boards, Committee and Council budget to support the costs of invited community participants, including the Solidarity Notes Labour Choir and Burnaby-based labour historian Dr. Allen Seager.

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5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This report outlines a proposed session for the Pacific Northwest Labour History Conference in May, 2020. Staff recommend that an allocation of up to \$800 be authorized for expenditure from the 2020 Boards, Committees and Council budget for speaker's fees for the community participants for the presentation.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

LC:sa

Copied to: City Manager
City Clerk
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services