

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

**DATE:** 2020 January 29

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 3520 20  
*Reference: CHC Projects General*

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION TRAINING ON  
IDENTIFICATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF INDIGENOUS HERITAGE  
RESOURCES**

**PURPOSE:** To allocate funds from the 2020 Boards, Committees, and Council budget for professional development training for members of the Community Heritage Commission to increase the Commission's capacity to advise Council on identification and stewardship of Indigenous heritage resources.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Community Heritage Commission recommend that Council authorize an allocation of up to \$1,500 from the 2020 Boards, Committees, and Council budget for a consultant to provide members of the Community Heritage Commission with training on best practices for local governments on recognizing and providing stewardship for Indigenous heritage resources.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Council report "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 'Calls to Action' for Local Government – Proposed Framework for Further Action" (adopted by Council on 2019 November 18) was received for information and discussed by the Community Heritage Commission at their 2019 November 28 meeting.

Recognizing the supportive role the CHC could serve, Commissioners responded to the report by expressing interest in learning more about how the work of Truth and Reconciliation could be incorporated as part of the City's heritage program. The Commission requested that staff explore and develop a program on how the Commission can further address and advance Truth and Reconciliation through its work. In response to this request, staff are recommending that expert speaker(s) be retained to provide professional development training to members of the CHC. The training will provide an introduction to Indigenous cultural heritage and examples of best practices for local governments.

## 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."

Work to ensure the City's heritage program is inclusive of the full diversity of the community is supported by the following Council-adopted policies:

- Equity Policy, approved by Council in 1994, which states that "The City has a duty to its citizens to set a positive example and foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect".
- Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy, approved by Council in 2011, includes a primary goal of 'Community Inclusion'. This goal is particularly concerned with ensuring the City is "welcoming of all cultures, identities and abilities", and focuses on "principles of economic and social security and justice".

The initiative also supports the following goals and sub-goals of the *Corporate Strategic Plan*:

- ***An Inclusive Community***
  - Celebrate diversity – Create more opportunities for the community to celebrate diversity
  - Serve a diverse community – Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
  - Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- ***A Thriving Organization***
  - Organizational culture – Ensure that our core values are reflected in our policies, programs and service delivery

## 3.0 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO ADVANCE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE RECOGNITION

The work of demonstrating ancestral and ongoing Indigenous presence on the land has been a focus of the City's work to date on addressing the actions for local governments and within local government jurisdiction contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, *Honouring the Truth – Reconciling for the Future* (2015 December). Initiatives have included publication of the *Indigenous History in Burnaby* resource guide, recognizing and celebrating 'National Indigenous Peoples Day,' and implementing an Indigenous territory acknowledgement for civic events and documents.

TRC Action #47 is of particular significance to the work of the CHC, as it calls upon all levels of government "to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands." Addressing Action #47 requires acknowledgement of the cultural heritage of

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Indigenous communities and their connections to their traditional territory, including places and sites of cultural significance. The CHC advises Council on matters concerning the identification, management, and preservation and/or restoration of buildings and sites with historical significance to Burnaby. The proposed training session will help build the knowledge and capacity of the CHC to provide advice to Council on identifying and recognizing Burnaby places that are significant to Indigenous peoples.


The training session will provide information on best practices for local governments related to commemorating and interpreting Indigenous Cultural Heritage through heritage recognition initiatives. Section 599 of Part 15 of the *Local Government Act* empowers local governments to “recognize the heritage value or heritage character of a heritage property, an area or some other aspect of the community’s heritage.” The CHC advises Council on a range of heritage recognition initiatives, from interpretive signage and publications, to presentations and digital access initiatives. The training program will provide an introduction to Indigenous cultural heritage, and provide examples of best practices and suggested actions that can be advanced through local governments.

The cost of securing a consultant is estimated to be up to \$1,500. Sufficient funds to undertake this initiative are available in the 2020 Boards, Committee and Council budget.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In response to the Council report “Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ‘Calls to Action’ for Local Government – Proposed Framework for Further Action”, the Community Heritage Commission requested that staff develop a professional development program for Commission to provide information on how to further address and advance the work of Truth and Reconciliation through the City’s heritage program.

This report outlines a proposed training session proposed for the 6 April 2020 Community Heritage Commission meeting. As such, the Community Heritage Commission recommends that Council authorize an allocation of up to \$1,500 for expenditure from the 2020 Boards, Committees and Council budget to fund this initiative.

  
E.W. Kozak, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

LC:sa

Copied to: City Manager  
City Clerk