

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION WHEY-AH-WICHEN CANOE FESTIVAL

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a grant contribution of \$10,000 be approved for distribution to the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival, as outlined in the report titled "Tsleil-Waututh Nation Whey-Ah-Wichen Canoe Festival", of the Executive Committee of Council meeting, dated April 7, 2025.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its meeting held on April 7, 2025, received and adopted the attached report seeking Council approval to provide a grant for \$10,000 to the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of
Council,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (ECC)
FROM: DIRECTOR INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION
SUBJECT: **TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION WHEY-AH-WICHEN CANOE FESTIVAL**
PURPOSE: To seek approval to provide a grant for \$10,000 to the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a grant contribution of \$10,000 be approved for distribution to the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival, as outlined in the report titled “Tsleil-Waututh Nation Whey-Ah-Wichen Canoe Festival”, dated April 7, 2025.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

A City of Burnaby (City) financial contribution to the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival is supported by City plans and policies that work towards building and maintaining relationships and advancing reconciliation with Host Nations and Indigenous Peoples, including:

- Equity Policy (1994, Updated 2020)
 - For example: *The City has a duty to its citizens to set a positive example and foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect.*
- Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Strategy Framework (2024)
 - For example: *To come to terms with events of the past and to proactively develop respectful and mutually beneficial relationships based on truth, justice, and reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Peoples that will support a prosperous and just future for all.*

This work is also in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (TRC), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

2.0 BACKGROUND

Parts of present-day Burnaby are located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. For many years the City has worked closely with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to build and maintain a positive government-to-government relationship and to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Peoples in the community. Representatives from City Council and the City's leadership team are often invited by Tsleil-Waututh into their community and have had opportunities to

engage directly with both leadership and community members, including Elders and youth from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation who will benefit from this contribution.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation is holding its 2025 Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival from July 4-6, celebrating the Nation's canoe culture, and providing an opportunity for knowledge transfer both within the community and with other participating Nations. Tsleil-Waututh Nation notes that this is the most important annual event they host, which is:

"Honouring the past, celebrating the present, and imagining the future of our people."

An important cultural value in Tsleil-Waututh Nation is ʔə ʔ sqʷeləwən (pronounced "aytz-squal-owen"). ʔə ʔ sqʷeləwən translates as "good feelings" in their language.

In the spirit of ʔə ʔ sqʷeləwən, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation is asking its valued friends and partners to support this event which sees hundreds of paddlers of all ages take to the traditional waters off of Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park. Contributions can help support race-canoe pullers and teams, as well as the Elders area and important additional aspects, such as first aid attendants and safety boats.

Contributions of \$10,000 and above are considered to be in the Gold Category and contributors will receive a large ad space in the festival program, providing an opportunity for the City to demonstrate its commitment to relationship building with Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

To continue the ongoing relationship with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, the City could make a grant contribution to this event.

4.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The contribution will be drawn from Community Grants Program. that has been provisioned through the 2025 Annual Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikelle Sasakamoose, Director Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Letter from Tsleil-Waututh Nation Re: Sponsorship Appeal for Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival