

Update: Indigenous Peoples Strategy

Initiative Title:	Indigenous Peoples Strategy
City Council Sponsor(s):	Mayor D. Iveson / Councillor T. Caterina / Councillor S. McKeen
Supporting Department and Lead Staff:	Community Services, Lyall Brenneis / Mike Chow

BACKGROUND:

- Edmonton's Census Metropolitan Area is one of Canada's fastest growing urban Aboriginal populations second largest to Winnipeg. Approximately 5% of the Edmonton population identify as Aboriginal, and it is also a relatively young one where the median age is around 25 years old as compared to the national average of 36.
- In August 2005, City Council affirmed the *Declaration for Strengthen Relationships Between the City of Edmonton and Urban Aboriginal Peoples*. "We are fortunate to share in the diverse cultural, social and economic contributions [Indigenous] Peoples bring to our city each day. The Aboriginal communities of today are re-claiming and nurturing their cultural identities and striving to achieve prosperity."
- The establishment of the Aboriginal Relations Office in 2007 was a leading edge practice in municipal policy development to ensure that Aboriginal issues/views/needs are integrated into the development, delivery of programs and services the City offers.
- Administration is currently supporting many programs and initiatives which centre on Aboriginal peoples. Combined with Councils focused efforts continuing work will include: Internal Administrative configurations which support Aboriginal peoples, local urban Aboriginal strategy & community capacity building, and the urban Aboriginal Accord renewal.

Internal Administrative Configurations which Support Aboriginal Peoples

- The complexity of service delivery to many diverse communities must be addressed in a systemic, integrated fashion. Communities are less neighbourhood based, they are becoming more interest based. Therefore other means of delivering services and programs will need to be adapted. The Aboriginal community in Edmonton is diverse, and the need to ensure that engagement with all Aboriginal communities in and outside Edmonton is completed and where consultations are shared across sections, branches, departments and programs and capital projects. Programs, both operating and capital, should ensure they are diverse and inclusive to different

indigenous cultures and capital budgets should provide consideration to historic Aboriginal contributions.

Local Urban Aboriginal Strategy & Community Capacity Building

- Ongoing creation of a municipal coordinating body where the bringing together a broad sector of agencies, institutions, businesses, nations and federal and provincial government areas to create a community plan and set priorities to assist with the achievement of the community's economic, social and cultural goals. Currently Wicahitowin is playing an active role in this endeavour, and continued support to the organization with governance practices and reporting.

Urban Aboriginal Accord Renewal 2016

- The Urban Aboriginal Accord was established in 2006, and was a principle based relationship agreement between the Aboriginal People of Edmonton and the City Administration. An extensive "Urban Aboriginal Community Dialogue" process was undertaken, and 2016 will mark its 10 year anniversary. Planning to review the Aboriginal Accord in time for the 2016 anniversary and engagement with a new community dialogue will be undertaken.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- City Council's engagement with the indigenous community in matters and in ways that benefit achievement of the community's economic, social and cultural goals is an ongoing focus established by previous councils and will be continued on with the new council.
- Emphasis will be targeted toward three main focuses; youth leadership development and civic engagement, supports for Aboriginal Women, and transitions to urban life. Administration is currently supporting many programs and initiatives that centre on Aboriginal people, these focuses will complement the existing efforts.

Youth Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Focus

- Support of initiatives, activities and programs that provide Aboriginal youth with the skills and capacity to take on leadership roles, navigate through life and participate fully in civic processes. Existing initiatives such as the Ben Calf Robe Pow-Wow, the Flying Eagle Summer Program, and the Nîkânîw Aquatic Leaders Program will be used as examples of activities, programs and initiatives that will engage Aboriginal Youth, building upon the many others in the community. The development of an Aboriginal Youth led committee will be explored, to bring together various youth leaders to discuss common issues of concerns and potentially advise and/or implement projects.

Enhancing Aboriginal engagement with Edmonton's Next –Gen Committee is also an option to explore.

Supports for Aboriginal Women Focus

- Compliment the work of the new Women's Advisory Committee to focus efforts on issues and concerns to Aboriginal Women. The work would be completed parallel to the Women's Initiative (Council Initiative), with unique attention paid to areas in which projects, initiatives and activities where Aboriginal Women are disproportionately represented would be supported. Examples would be supporting initiatives like the Esquao Leadership Program and Awards.

Transition to Urban Life Focus

- Statistically more than half of Canada's Aboriginal population are no longer living on reserves, settlements and territories. Many are calling urban spaces "home" as much as their traditional lands - they move seamlessly back and forth. Ensuring the City of Edmonton can be a place of choice for people has much to do with the supports that are available to help acclimatize people to urban lifestyles. Creating an overall sense of belonging and connectedness to Edmonton is important as the city continues to grow in size. Existing initiatives such as Aboriginal Family Nights and supporting Agencies to deliver programs such as 'New in Town' are examples of programs, projects and initiatives that can be built upon.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC DIRECTION:

- The Way We Live | Goal #1 - Edmonton is a vibrant, connected and engaged welcoming city. Meets objective 1.4 The City of Edmonton connects individuals, families, groups, cultures and communities to the services they need to thrive and realize their potential.
- The Way We Live | Goal #2 – Edmonton is a caring, inclusive and affordable city. Meets objective 3.2 The City of Edmonton increases opportunities to improve the lives of its vulnerable population.

START-UP BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:

- Existing internal resources will be used to create detailed project plan.

TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT PLAN:

- Fall 2014