



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 1, 2018  
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Meeting Date: April 17, 2018

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services  
SUBJECT: Social Grant Towards Indigenous Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

THAT Council approve a one-time grant of \$30,000 to Britannia Community Services Centre Society to re-establish the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow honouring Indigenous women. Source of funding is the 2018 Social Policy Grants Operating budget.

Recommendation requires 8 affirmative votes of all Council members per Vancouver Charter S. 206(1)

### ***REPORT SUMMARY***

The Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow was identified as a priority by urban Indigenous women in Vancouver as part of a consultation between the City, the Urban Indigenous Advisory Committee and over fifty organizations in April 2017. To support this event, this report recommends a grant of \$30,000 to Britannia Community Services Centre for the 2018 Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow honouring Indigenous women, that is being planned and organized with Indigenous residents, and to provide planning and coordination support for the 2019 event.

### ***COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS***

In 2014, Council designated Vancouver as a City of Reconciliation and in 2015, the City identified areas of action under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada recommendations.

In 2014, Council approved A Healthy City for All: Healthy City Strategy 2014-2025 - Phase I, which identifies Being and Feeling Safe and Healthy Human Services as two of its 13 goals and seeks to “advance opportunities for reconciliation and healing from the negative impacts and stereotypes that resulted from Canada's residential school system”.

In 2014, the Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions, Caring for All: Priority Actions to Address Mental Health and Addictions identified Indigenous wellness as 1 of 6 action areas.

On January 17 2018, Council approved “Vancouver: A City for All Women, Women's Equality Strategy “, a ten year strategy that outlines a vision to make Vancouver a fair, safe, and inclusive city for all women, including self-identified women.

### ***CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The revitalization of the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow is a way for the City of Vancouver to support women, mothers, and families is to revitalize the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow, which has been cancelled due to lack of funding. The Pow Wow is aligned with City of Reconciliation goals by promoting Indigenous Peoples arts, culture, awareness and understanding.

### ***REPORT***

#### ***Background/Context***

A Pow Wow is a celebration and gathering of dance, drums and songs. Initially, public dances that most resemble what we now know as Pow Wows were most common in the Great Plains region of the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By the mid-nineteenth century, Pow Wows were also being held in the Great Lakes region and are now held across Turtle Island (North America).

Prior to 1951, Canada's *Indian Act* did not allow Pow Wows to take place unless sanctioned by the government for parades and celebrations. Following amendments to the *Indian Act* in 1951, Pow Wows have been held without interference. Today, Pow Wows are a testament to the strength and resilience of Indigenous people and of their connection to their culture, identity and ceremony.

For 24 years Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House with support for the many people, including the City of Vancouver, in the community started the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow in 1984. It was the beginning of reintroducing ceremonies to help in the healing journey which many Indigenous peoples lost and were in need of. What started as family nights developed into three day events attended by thousands from across the city, especially the Downtown Eastside and by people across the province and the country. This includes many Indigenous women who worked as organizers and volunteers to host the event over three days.

2008 was the last year of the event. It was discontinued for a number of reasons including the fact that Trout Lake arena was closed for renewal.

The purpose of the April 2017 consultation between the Urban Indigenous People's Advisory Committee and community organizations was to determine how the City could support the families and survivors participating in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The consultation identified the need for support for culture, tradition and ceremony as an important part of taking care of families before, during, and after the Inquiry that takes place in Vancouver from April 3 through 8<sup>th</sup>. There was strong support for providing access to healing and wellness supports before, during, and after the Inquiry, including the re-establishment of the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow on May 13, 2018. The theme will be: Honouring Our Lifegivers: Remembering Our Women and Girls.

### *Strategic Analysis*

Given this context, the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow is an opportunity for continued reconciliation between the City of Vancouver and urban Indigenous community as well as, healing from the negative impacts and stereotypes that resulted from Canada's residential school system.

The focus on honoring women at the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow will contribute to a legacy of healing, growth, and empowerment for Indigenous women. Empowered Indigenous women will create their own opportunities to take care of themselves, their families and their community into the future.

The recommendation in this report will help to re-establish the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow in Vancouver in 2018. A one day event will be held in 2018 and the planning group hopes to host a three day event in 2019. Some support for costs in early 2019 are recommended so that planning and fund raising from other sources and donors can begin early in the New Year. It is recommended that \$20,000 be released in 2018 for program expenses and coordination supports, and \$10,000 be released in early 2019. These funds are being matched by other in kind resources being provided through Britannia Community Centre, hundreds of volunteer hours contributed by a group of committed volunteers and other donations.

The Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow is in line with the commitment to City of Reconciliation goals and is grounded in healing and wellness and supports traditional, spiritual, and cultural practices in order to more fully support urban Indigenous families.

### *Implications/Related Issues/Risk*

#### *Financial*

The source of funding for the one-time grant of \$30,000 to Britannia Community Services Centre Society to re-establish the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow honouring Indigenous women is the 2018 Social Policy Grant Operating budget.

## *CONCLUSION*

This is an opportunity to reinstate the annual Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow which is a significant step towards reconciliation and healing in the city. The Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow has been a source of pride, cohesion, and healing for the Indigenous community as well as an opportunity for those effected by the legacy of the Residential school system to celebrate their cultures. The focus on honouring women at the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow is also particularly appropriate in 2018 after the recent visit of the inquiry for Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The event will commemorate, celebrate, honour and empower Indigenous women.

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