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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: July 15, 2013
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Meeting Date: July 23, 2013

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Year of Reconciliation in the City of Vancouver: Celebrations for Reconciliation Week (September 16-22, 2013)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council support the initiatives of Truth and Reconciliation Canada (TRC) and Reconciliation Canada (RC) during *Reconciliation Week* by approving an overall budget amount of up to \$535,000 to off-set eligible City service costs for:

- the canoe gathering and Walk for Reconciliation;
- printing and installation of banners;
- rental of Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza plus sound equipment;
- rental of Pacific National Exhibition facilities; and
- associated operation costs for use of City facilities

The recommended source of funding is the City's Innovation Fund.

REPORT SUMMARY

Council has proclaimed June 21, 2013 to June 2014 as the *Year of Reconciliation* in the City of Vancouver. Citywide support of the Reconciliation initiatives is underway at City Hall, and numerous activities are in place to support the *Year of Reconciliation*. On June 20, Council officially announced the Proclamation for the Year of Reconciliation at an intercultural celebration and dialogue event attended by local and provincial First Nations and multicultural leaders. The Mayor, in issuing the proclamation, has signaled that Vancouver will become the world's first 'City of Reconciliation'. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be hosting its national event for British Columbia in Vancouver from September 16-22 2013. This week will include a number of events in partnership with the TRC, Reconciliation Canada and our local First Nation community and will support our work to

achieve status as a City of Reconciliation. This report seeks approval for the funding of city services for Reconciliation Week initiatives that the City will be enabling.

Reconciliation Week activities include the following:

Date(s) 2013	Event
September 16	<i>Lighting the Flame of Reconciliation.</i> A sacred fire will be lit to symbolize the commencement of the Week for Reconciliation
September 17	<i>All Nations Canoe Gathering.</i> Canoes, dragon boats and other vessels will gather together and travel from Kits Point to the Olympic Village along False Creek to highlight traditional ceremonies and welcome all Nations to Coast Salish lands
September 18-21	Four days of <i>residential school</i> story-gathering, education and academic discussions at the PNE
September 18-21	<i>A Walk for Reconciliation.</i> Bringing 50,000 people from across Canada’s many cultures to walk a path together in a shared commitment to reconciliation
September 22	<i>A New Way Forward Ceremony.</i> To follow the Reconciliation Walk at Creekside Park there will be a community celebration with a ceremony for all participants to confirm commitments towards spreading the “reconciliation” message. This call to action will develop future relationships between Aboriginal people and other members of the Canadian public

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Mayor and Council have initiated a new relationship with the three local First Nations governments (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil Waututh) in a Council-to-Council structure whereby significant intergovernmental matters are discussed. Regular meetings with individual First Nations are also being held to discuss government-to-government matters. At the first Council-to-Council meetings with each of the three Host Nations earlier this year, City Council declared support for the *Reconciliation* movement that is currently underway and led by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Reconciliation Canada (RC).

At its meeting on February 26, 2013, Vancouver City Council passed a motion to proclaim June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014 as the *Year of Reconciliation* in Vancouver. On June 20, Council officially announced the Proclamation at an intercultural celebration and dialogue event attended by local and provincial First Nations and multicultural leaders. on June 20 2013, discussions were held with participants regarding the direction Mayor and Council should take in how Vancouver could become the world’s first ‘City of Reconciliation’.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The year of reconciliation is a milestone for Canada and our city. The City of Vancouver is committed to participating in the special Reconciliation Week events and ensuring that we work with TRC, Reconciliation Canada and our First Nations partners to mobilize our

community to raise awareness of the issues behind this reconciliation process. The work of drawing attention to the effects of residential schools, and for public awareness on this important, yet regrettable part of Canada's history needs to continue on beyond the initial mandate of the TRC. City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

The City of Vancouver has taken steps to increase understanding between Aboriginal communities and local members of the general public through programs such as the Dialogues Project. With the goal of improving relationships with First Nations, Mayor and Council have initiated a new relationship with the three local First Nations governments (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil Waututh) in a Council-to-Council structure whereby significant intergovernmental matters are discussed. Regular meetings with individual First Nations are also being held to discuss government-to-government matters. At the first Council-to-Council meeting with the three Host Nations earlier this year, City Council declared support for the *Reconciliation* movement that is currently underway and led by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Reconciliation Canada (RC).

According to the TRC website, for over 100 years, more than 150,000 Aboriginal children were removed from their families and sent to institutions called Residential Schools. The government-funded, church-run schools were located across Canada and established with the purpose to eliminate parental involvement in the spiritual, cultural and intellectual development of Aboriginal children. The last residential schools closed in the mid-1990s.

In 2008, the Prime Minister of Canada issued an apology for Canada's role in imposing the residential school system on Aboriginal families. The federal government subsequently supported the creation of the TRC, part of whose mandate was to collect stories of residential school survivors for the next five years. The TRC national event for BC will be held in September 2013 in Vancouver. The work of drawing attention to the effects of residential schools, and for public awareness on this important, yet regrettable part of Canada's history needs to continue on beyond the initial mandate of the TRC.

Reconciliation Canada (RC) is a local non-profit organization established as a collaborative effort between the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society (IRSSS) and Tides Canada Initiatives Society (TCIS). RC is led by Chief Bobby Joseph, and is tasked with contributing to the work of the TRC, and fostering continuous dialogue and engagement between Aboriginal people and the Canadian public in an ongoing process of reconciliation.

According to Reconciliation Canada, "*Reconciliation is an opportunity for all Canadians to renew relationships, based on a shared understanding of our histories and our cultures and walk a path together for a shared tomorrow. To 'reconcile' is to weave a stronger and more vibrant social fabric, supported by the unique and diverse strengths of Canadians and their communities.*"

In May 2012, the City of Vancouver established an Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee to formally provide advice, direction, and decision-making support to Mayor and Council with regards to local urban Aboriginal issues and initiatives. 12 members of the urban

Aboriginal community are appointed to a three year term and work with City staff in mobilizing their efforts.

On June 20, 2013 the City of Vancouver and Reconciliation Canada co-hosted an intercultural celebration and dialogue where the Mayor proclaimed June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014 as the *Year of Reconciliation*. Local and provincial First Nations and multicultural leaders, along with members of the wider community of Vancouver discussed the prospect of Vancouver becoming the world's first *City of Reconciliation*. This will send a clear message about Vancouver's long-term commitment and legacy towards reconciliation and its significant relationships with Aboriginal peoples and governments. Within City departments, an interdepartmental staff committee has been set up to:

- support program activities during the *Year of Reconciliation* with the goal of promoting understanding among staff and the public about the historical events that have shaped current conditions and experiences for Aboriginal people;
- promote cultural bonds in building a more inclusive future; and
- improve City services for the Aboriginal population.

There are over 20 different Aboriginal initiatives underway, many of which are in support of the *Year of Reconciliation*, and more are being developed. The Mayor has also issued a 'Call to Action' urging other municipalities to join Vancouver's proclamation.

Strategic Analysis

Improving relations with Aboriginal communities and enhancing public awareness of Aboriginal history, including the experience of residential schools, has been a long-standing issue across Canada. Mayor and Council have made it a priority to improve relations between the City and local First Nations and Aboriginal communities, and to act as a leader in furthering the long-term work of promoting reconciliation. Council supports reconciliation efforts as ways to help all cultures in our community develop new relationships, heal from the past, and move forward with shared understanding and respect.

TRC Events:

From September 17 - 21, 2013, TRC will host a National Reconciliation event in Vancouver to engage the Canadian public and provide education about the history of the Residential School experience and the government assimilation system, which ended in 1996.

The four days of events will be open for public participation free of charge. Events include the following:

- Sharing Circles with Survivors
- Expression of Reconciliation
- Education Forum
- Listening Space
- Commissioners Sharing Panel
- Talent Show
- Learning Place
- Private Statement Gathering

Events held during Reconciliation Week will be significant in promoting awareness and educating the public on this lesser-known part of Canadian history that has significantly shaped current conditions and experiences for Aboriginal people. Events are designed to engage and encourage the participation of the Canadian public and to build relationships and understanding. TRC has requested that the City provide funding support for the usage of the PNE, waiving of permits and banner installation.

RC Events:

During Reconciliation Week in Vancouver, RC will be hosting a series of cultural events in support of TRC. Events will include a canoe gathering with aboriginal canoes from many First Nations communities, as well as dragon boats and other vessels to demonstrate collaborations among all ethnic groups. The September 22 *Walk for Reconciliation* aims to attract over 50,000 participants from all walks of life and cultures banding together to show their commitment towards reconciliation. The *Walk for Reconciliation* will end with *A New Way Forward* Ceremony and celebration.

RC has also requested that the City provide funding support for their activities, which includes waiving permits and costs associated with the canoe gathering and the Walk for Reconciliation, banner installation and the usage of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza. The City of Vancouver will promote these events to staff and the public, and will organize City staff's participation in the *Walk for Reconciliation* on September 22, 2013 led by Mayor Robertson and City Council members.

City funding support is being requested to ensure that the events planned by TRC and RC are able to function as planned, and that the City is able to support both the reconciliation commitment and the Mayor's *Call to Action* by showing direct involvement and support for these important, large scale initiatives for reconciliation.

Use of the Innovation Fund to support activities during Reconciliation Week aligns with City's priorities related to Council's commitment supporting the work of "Reconciliation", proclaiming the Year of Reconciliation with discussions and engagement of the community towards the prospect of Vancouver becoming the first "City of Reconciliation". This will send a clear message about Vancouver's long-term commitment and legacy towards reconciliation and its significant relationships with Aboriginal peoples and governments.

Activities planned for the Week of Reconciliation are open and free to public participation. Council supports to enable all planned activities can be fully implemented, this will encourage all cultures in our community develop new relationships, heal from the past, and move forward with shared understanding and respect.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

The total events budget for the Week of Reconciliation, including both services and activities, is \$3.48M, with \$2.23M of this funding already secured, and a remaining balance of \$1.25M in fundraising required over the next two months.

Table 1: Week of Reconciliation budget and funding sources

	Total Events Budget	Secured Funding	Remaining Funding Required
TRC Fundraising	1,159,000	271,000	888,000
TRC contribution	992,258	992,258	-
TRC Total	2,151,258	1,263,258	888,000
RC Fundraising	1,330,435	964,557	365,878
RC Total	1,330,435	964,557	365,878
TOTAL	\$ 3,481,693	\$ 2,227,815	\$ 1,253,878

TRC's National event budget for four days of activities at the PNE is an estimated \$2,151,258. TRC's own contribution is \$992,258 with a fundraising target of \$1,159,000. To date, they have secured \$271,000 in fundraising dollars. A balance of \$888,000 is still required.

RC's event budget for their cultural activities and the Walk for Reconciliation is an estimated \$1,330,435. To date, they have secured \$964,557 through fundraising and investments from both private and public sources. RC is continuing its fundraising efforts for the remaining \$365,878.

Approval of this report would contribute up to \$535K towards the remaining funding balance of \$1.25M; source of funds is to be the City's Innovation Fund. This funding will be used to off-set eligible City service costs in facility rental, operations, permits and banners installations (as detailed in Appendix A). Funding from the City is critical to demonstrate Council's commitment in the Year of Reconciliation as well as assisting both the TRC and RC to leverage investments from foundations and private corporations.

The City's Innovation funding support of \$535K will be matched by external funding of \$2.95M, for a total project budget of \$3.48M. This investment leverages \$2.95M from external partners (5.5:1 leverage) and demonstrates Council's commitment towards Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian Public. As outlined in Appendix B, this project aligns fully with the guidelines for the Innovation Fund.

As part of the 2012 and 2013 Operating budgets, Council has approved an Innovation Fund, at a level of \$2 million per year. Currently there is an unallocated balance of \$2,271,200 in the Innovation Fund. Information about the City of Vancouver Innovation Fund, including the criteria and guidelines for accessing this funding, is contained in Appendix C.

CONCLUSION

Providing support towards program activities during Reconciliation Week will demonstrate Council's commitment towards reconciliation, promoting a shared understanding of Aboriginal histories and cultures and engaging the broader public and our diverse citizens in creating an inclusive and shared future.

Based on Mayor and Council's commitment to the efforts of Reconciliation Canada, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, and the City of Vancouver's Year of Reconciliation and its goal of becoming the world's first City of Reconciliation, along with the Mayor's 'Call to Action', it is appropriate to support the Week of Reconciliation from September 17 - 22, 2013.

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The requests from both TRC and RC for City funding support are:

Item	Amount Requested
Banner installation & take down	\$27,048
Printing of banners	\$22,000
Permits and fees for Canoe Gathering	\$12,000
Permits & fees for the Walk	\$60,000
Usage of QE Plaza at the start of the walk & AV set up plus rental	\$7,509
Permits for lighting of sacred fire	\$20
Usage of PNE for 4 days of TRC events - rental	\$192,250
Operation costs at PNE for 4 days	\$213,835
Total funding requested from City of Vancouver:	\$534,662

Alignment to Innovation Fund:

Innovation Fund Guidelines	Project Alignment
Aligns with City Priorities	At its meeting on February 26, 2013, Vancouver City Council passed a motion to proclaim June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014 as the <i>Year of Reconciliation</i> in Vancouver. On June 20, Council officially announced the Proclamation at an intercultural celebration and dialogue event attended by local and provincial First Nations and multicultural leaders
Leverages minimum 1:1 3 rd party investment	\$535K City investment leverages \$2.95M from external partners (5.5:1 leverage)
One-time opportunity (2 year maximum)	1 Year: June 21, 2013 to June 2014
Demonstrates clear outcome and transformation towards CoV goals	Funding from the City is critical to demonstrate Council's commitment in the Year of Reconciliation and the Mayor's Call to Action by showing direct involvement and support for these important, large scale initiatives for reconciliation

City of Vancouver Innovation Fund:

Increasingly, more opportunities exist to work with other parties to leverage expertise, funding, and access to various in kind resources in order to focus on strategic areas important to the city. This form of leverage allows the City to continue to advance its policy priorities at a lower cost to taxpayers.

The Innovation Fund is expected to build on the City's experience in leveraging funding and expertise with outside agencies, other levels of government, private sector, universities and not-for-profits to advance key City priorities through aggressive leveraging of external partners.

Some examples of these types of unique opportunities would include: Enhancing the success of our urban aboriginal residents; enhancing our local economy with an emphasis on social enterprise particularly in the green sector; innovative child care programs for children at risk; cultural programs which enhance the community and create local jobs for artists; enhancing the involvement of our seniors in community; enhancing our sport strategy through partnerships o significant sporting initiatives; sport for youth at risk; and others.

Guidelines for accessing City of Vancouver Innovation Fund:

With the establishment of an Innovation Fund, one time innovative projects can be funded to advance key agendas in the city. Accessing the City of Vancouver Innovation is at Council discretion; however, the following guidelines have been established to optimize the use of the fund:

- Aligns with Council Agenda (Housing, Public Safety, Economy, Environment)
- Demonstrates clear outcomes
- Matching requirements - target leverage of 3:1 (minimum 1:1) 3rd party investment (cash and in-kind) to City funding
- Size of CoV contribution should enable a broad range of programs to be supported by fund (Guideline - maximum project size of \$250,000 recommended).
- Projects which are one-time innovative opportunities; maximum commitment for expenditure of funds - up to 2 years
- Supports transformation and innovation in meeting City goals; shines a spotlight on Vancouver

To date, Council has approved the following uses of the innovation fund:

1. The City's contribution of \$148,800 toward the Vancouver Rent Bank (RTS #9484), which leveraged resources from the Vancouver Foundation and Streethome Foundation. The Vancouver Rent Bank aims to increase housing stability by preventing evictions or loss of essential utilities.
2. Council earmarked \$1,000,000 of the fund for an addition of \$1 million dollars to the Community Social Services and related grant funds to help meet the existing and emerging funding gaps (RTS # 9991).

3. In May 2013, Council approved two grants from the Innovation Fund over a two year period (2013 & 2014) totalling \$380,000. This was comprised of a grant of \$300,000 to the Vancity Community Foundation's Social Enterprise Portfolio Program to support social enterprises with business and management development, marketing and small capital costs, and a grant of \$80,000 to Potluck Café Society's Recipes for Success Program, to provide resources and support to social enterprises and small businesses in the DTES, and to hire and retain residents who have encountered barriers to employment. (RTS #10053)
4. In May 2013, Council approved a contribution of \$200,000 towards the 125th anniversary celebrations of Stanley Park. The Vancouver Park Board requested the City's matching funds to undertake the 125th anniversary celebrations for the citizens of Vancouver and visitors to the City. The City's contribution of \$200,000 will be used to pay for artistic fees, infrastructure costs, and production staff. (RTS #10120)