

Declaration of Commitment

Strengthening Relationships between the City of Thunder Bay and Urban Aboriginal People

Our Declaration of Commitment is an important component to the building of a strong and respectful relationship with the Aboriginal community in Thunder Bay. Aboriginal peoples include Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples (as defined by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982). It is also a realization of a commitment made in the Aboriginal Liaison Strategic Plan accepted by City Council on March 29, 2010.

Our commitment to the Aboriginal peoples of the City of Thunder Bay is based on the understanding and recognition that:

- Aboriginal peoples were the first peoples to inhabit this land and have a unique and special relationship with it;
- Aboriginal peoples have traditionally gathered here;
- Aboriginal peoples have the right to make decisions for themselves;
- Aboriginal peoples have and continue to participate in and support the economic well-being of our community;
- Aboriginal peoples have distinct languages, cultures and spiritual practices that need to be respected;
- Aboriginal peoples have endured many hardships and injustices since first contact that have created serious social and economic disadvantages;
- Aboriginal peoples have made invaluable contributions throughout our collective history that has created a stable and rich community;
- Aboriginal peoples are the fastest growing population in our region.

The City of Thunder Bay's declared commitment is to:

- Partner with Aboriginal peoples in creating an inclusive community that values and respects the diversity that exists in the City of Thunder Bay
- Work with Aboriginal peoples to identify and assist with the removal of barriers that hinder their full participation in community life
- Recognize the resourcefulness of Aboriginal youth and assist with the creation of opportunities that will encourage them to participate in building our community
- Work with the community to create a safe and welcoming environment that Aboriginal peoples will feel comfortable in
- Recognize and celebrate the valuable contributions Aboriginal peoples have made and continue to make in our community
- Maintain and support the living document – “Aboriginal Liaison Strategic Plan”.