

DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION	City Manager's Office - Corporate Strategic Services	REPORT NO.	R 82/2018
DATE PREPARED	06/4/2018	FILE NO.	
MEETING DATE	(mm/dd/yyyy)		
SUBJECT	Second Annual Report Responding to Seven Youth Inquest		

RECOMMENDATION

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With respect to Corporate Report No. R 82/2018 (Corporate Strategic Services), we recommend that the Second Annual Report as described in Attachments A, B and C be approved and submitted to the Ontario Chief Coroner;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

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LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 2 of the *Becoming Our Best* 2015-2018 Corporate Strategic Plan is to be “Safe, Welcoming and Inclusive”. The Strategic Plan includes strategies and actions to update the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy (2.1.1), the Aboriginal Liaison Strategy (3.2.1.), develop a welcoming strategy with partners including a focus on supporting students relocating to Thunder Bay (2.4.1), and recognizing diversity (Goal 3).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inquest into the Deaths of Seven First Nations Youth (the “Inquest”) concluded on June 28, 2016 when the Jury rendered its verdict. The Jury issued 145 recommendations including 31 directed to the City (among other parties to the Inquest).

While the recommendations are not legally binding, the Inquest’s main purpose was to prevent future deaths of First Nations youth who must live away from their home communities to attend high school in Thunder Bay.

Attachment A provides the City’s Second Annual Report, which describes actions in response to the recommendations directed to the City.

Attachment B is an update on implementation of recommendation 115, River and Watercourse Safety Audit.

Attachment C details the City's completed Chart of Responses to Jury Recommendations template provided by the Ontario Chief Coroner for 2018 and 2017.

Attachment D is a letter received from the Ontario Chief Coroner, dated November 3, 2016, requesting that parties named in the recommendations respond on implementation and providing response codes.

The recommendations are aimed at improving or implementing programs within the City of Thunder Bay with respect to its physical, social and cultural infrastructure so that everyone coming to Thunder Bay is:

- treated equitably;
- included and engaged;
- safe; and
- able to access opportunities to succeed.

The City of Thunder Bay had standing at the Inquest and has responded to the Jury's recommendations. Highlights of efforts to date can be found below under the heading Highlights of Efforts to Date.

DISCUSSION

The Inquest into the Deaths of Seven First Nations Youth (the "Inquest") concluded on June 28, 2016 when the Jury rendered its verdict. The Jury issued 145 recommendations including 31 directed to the City (among other parties to the Inquest).

A complete copy of the Jury's verdict and recommendations was sent to the Mayor and Members of Council via email from the Director – Corporate Strategic Services on June 28, 2016.

The Inquest, which began on October 5, 2015, investigated the deaths of seven First Nations youth: Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper, Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang, and Jordan Wabasse.

In a letter (November 3, 2016), Ontario Chief Coroner Dirk Huyer, MD, explained that the purpose of an Inquest is to "look for lessons that can be learned from the deaths that may contribute to a safer future for the living. Juries often make recommendations based on these learned lessons and, while they are not binding, it is hoped that implemented recommendations will prevent future deaths in similar circumstances."

The Chief Coroner requested response by the anniversary of the Inquest – June 28, 2017. He further wrote: "We trust they (the recommendations) will be given careful

consideration for implementation and, if not implemented, that your organization provides an explanation.”

On January 18, 2017, the Chief Coroner was advised by the City Manager that the Director of Corporate Strategic Services is the member of the City’s Executive Management Team who is leading the City’s response to the Inquest.

Recommendations Directed to the City of Thunder Bay

This Report is intended to provide an overview of actions being undertaken in response to the 31 recommendations directed to the City among other parties and the steps Administration is taking as detailed in Attachment A – City of Thunder Bay Second Annual Report Responding to the Seven Youth Inquest at June 25, 2018.

This Chart (Attachment A) provides a high level outline of actions that have been undertaken in response to the recommendations directed to the City and provide the following information:

- Recommendation number as identified in the Jury’s verdict;
- High level description of the recommendation;
- Parties to the Inquest named on the recommendation;
- Actions City Administration is undertaking; and
- Information on current status.

The recommendations are aimed at improving or implementing programs within the City of Thunder Bay with respect to its physical, social and cultural infrastructure so that everyone coming to Thunder Bay is:

- treated equitably;
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- safe; and
- able to access opportunities to succeed.

Guiding Statements

Wherever the recommendation is directed to the City and other partners, the first step was to meet with the parties to discuss the approach in keeping with the intent of the Guiding Statements.

Recommendation 7 from the Jury states that, in moving forward with any initiatives that respond to the Inquest recommendations, the parties should be guided by the following:

- i. All of the Treaty Partners, including Indigenous communities and governments, Canada and Ontario, must respect the treaty rights of others and work together towards fulfilling treaty obligation;

- ii. First Nations governments exercise inherent control over their education systems;
- iii. First Nation communities seek to have a greater responsibility to govern their own spiritual, cultural, social, and economic affairs;
- iv. Without the improvements of conditions in First Nations reserve communities, a gap in education outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students will remain;
- v. Canada should support individual First Nations communities as they develop local solutions to the effects of colonial policy; and
- vi. In order to ensure timely delivery of publicly funded services to First Nations children, where jurisdictional divisions or disputes within or between governments threaten to delay or impede the provision of services, Jordan's Principle* should apply.

**Child first principle intended to ensure that First Nations children do not experience delay, denial or disruption of services that are normally available to all other children. A members motion (M-296) endorsing the adoption of Jordan's Principle was unanimously passed in the House of Commons in 2007. Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 3 states: We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.*

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), through Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum, has provided the political leadership to bring together the parties at a number of different tables to review and discuss various recommendations. As well, NAN has held Seven Youth Inquest Political Table meetings on January 19, 2017, June 22, 2017, and December 18, 2017, which has included political representatives of the named parties including the City of Thunder Bay.

On August 1, 2017, Fort William First Nation, the City of Thunder Bay and Nishnawbe Aski Nation signed a Statement of Commitment to First Nation Youth and Families. The City's response to the Seven Youth Inquest continues to be informed by that Commitment, which recognizes, among other statements, that "the safety and well-being of First Nation students attending high school in Thunder Bay is a priority and demands immediate action."

Highlights of Efforts to Date

Implementation of the City's response to the Seven Youth Inquest is being undertaken by an internal team led by the Director of Corporate Strategic Services, the City Clerk who manages the Aboriginal Liaison Office, and the Director of Recreation & Culture. The internal team also includes the Director of Human Resources & Corporate Safety and the Supervisor – Staffing, Development & Support Services; the Manager of Transit; Program Supervisor – Children and Youth; Coordinator – Planning, Projects & Development (Community Services); the Aboriginal Liaison; the Crime Prevention Council Coordinator; the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy Coordinator; and Legal Services.

With the agreement of partners, the City of Thunder Bay has led working groups and meetings regarding a number of recommendations such as Recommendation 49 (one-on-one meetings with education partners), Recommendation 100 (youth partners' forum), Recommendation 115 (watercourse / river safety audit) and Recommendation 116 (public awareness). In other cases, the City has participated in working groups and meetings called by other partners responding to the Inquest such as Ontario Recommendation 78 (coordination of services), and Recommendation 91 (missing person investigations and searches).

In addition to activities described in the first Annual Report R61/2017 (Corporate Strategic Services), Attachment A to this Report provides an update on the status of all 31 recommendations directed to the City among other parties.

Of the 31 recommendations directed to the City:

- 25 recommendations could reasonably be expected to be implemented in one to two years (short-term). Of those:
 - 20 have been implemented
 - 1 alternate recommendation has been implemented
 - 4 already had the content or intent of recommendation in place.
- 6 recommendations could reasonably be expected to be implemented in two to four years (medium-term). Of those:
 - 3 are in advanced stages of planning for implementation
 - 3 are planned for implementation pending a response to a funding submission.

Specific highlights of efforts to date include:

- Met one-on-one with representatives of the education sector to discuss outreach and orientation of students who are new to Thunder Bay. A broad range of City functions, with coordination from the Aboriginal Liaison Office, participate in annual orientation events and activities each semester.
- Applied to Public Safety Canada for a five-year evidence-based Youth Inclusion Program which will address youth safety, youth crime prevention, and well-being, with a focus on providing positive role models and mentors to Indigenous youth attending school in Thunder Bay. The proposal included contributions to a peer mentorship program in response to recommendation 75 and social media campaign to raise awareness of the challenges faced by First Nation students coming to Thunder Bay for education in response to Recommendation 116.
- Hosted a Youth Partners Forum (January, 2017) to explore coordination of city-wide youth recreation programming;
- Developed and launched a Youth Opportunities TBay Facebook page in February, 2017 for community groups to share opportunities and supports for youth;

- Promoted P.R.O Kids, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to helping economically disadvantaged children and youth access community recreation activities, to increase applications from Indigenous service organizations and families;
- Approved a grant in January 2017 for a sports equipment lending library hosted by Matawa Learning Centre that would be open to all First Nations youth attending school in Thunder Bay;
- Developed a process for tracking Indigenous youth applications and hires, effective July 1, 2018, as part of the Corporation's Employment Equity efforts.
- Reproduced the Declaration of Commitment to Urban Aboriginal People for posting in all City buildings (45 locations) and initiated process to read Declaration at Council's Committee of the Whole meeting closest to National Aboriginal Day, most recently June 18, 2018.
- Created an Anti-Racism resources section on the City website (www.thunderbay.ca/antiracism);
- Launched the Incident Reporting and Referral Service Pilot Program for people who have experienced or witnessed acts of racism in the community. People wishing to report incidents are able to speak to trained staff who will listen to their story and provide referrals to services. A researcher was hired to analyse the data and is preparing a report on the first year of implementation.
- In May 2017 conducted training and audits of watercourse / river areas known to be frequented by youth with 50 participants from all named parties. An update on implementation of recommendations is included in Attachment B.
- Implemented a First Nation Secondary School Pass Pilot Program for the 2017-2018 school year. This subsidized pass is meant to help overcome barriers faced by students who come to Thunder Bay from northern communities with respect to transportation issues to and from school as well as when accessing City programs and recreational service opportunities. In 2017, 236 students were involved in the program.
- Granted the former Grandview Lodge building and property to Matawa First Nations Management. This grant will help Matawa to achieve its dream of developing a Student Education and Care Centre, which will open in September 2018.
- Provided funding for the filming of a documentary video Chi Pi Kaaki Too Yang – Coming Together to Talk, a youth-led project by Thunderstone Pictures.
- Redeveloped staff Aboriginal/Indigenous Cultural Awareness training programs to enhance the current training curriculum and include skills-based training related to

intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism. The program is proceeding to launch in Fall of 2018,

Longer-Term Efforts

Options for funding public safety infrastructure including cameras, lights and smart poles along the rivers and watercourses are being considered in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

For the longer term, orientation and outreach, and efforts to address anti-Indigenous racism and to further inclusion will remain an ongoing focus.

This work is consistent with the Anti-Racism & Inclusion Accord signed June 19, 2018, by the Chief Executive Officers/Chief Administrative Officers of 11 major organizations in Thunder Bay. This coalition was led by City Manager Norm Gale with co-chair Ken Ogima, CEO, Fort William First Nation. By signing the Accord, the senior administrative leaders committed their organizations to:

- 1) Address racism against Indigenous and racialized persons by setting short- and long-term goals to meet the recommendations from the Seven Youth Inquest and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- 2) Support an ongoing process of truth & reconciliation throughout the organization and in our community by developing and maintaining respectful relations with Indigenous governments, organizations and individuals.
- 3) Report on goals annually, beginning in June 2019.

Communications

Subject to Council's approval, this Second Annual Report will be provided to the Office of the Chief Coroner and shared with the public on the City's and NAN's website and provided to our partners. An overview of the City's efforts to respond to the Inquest will be shared through the City's communication channels including the August/September *MyTbay* citizen newsletter and Facebook page.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The 2018 Budget included an expansion of \$168,000 for costs related to the Inquest. In 2019, these funds will allow Administration to continue the First Nation Secondary School Transit Pass, enhance cultural training, continue implementation of the river and watercourse safety audit recommendations, and provide contributions to a social media campaign to raise awareness of the challenges faced by youth coming to Thunder Bay from the northern communities for education.

The City's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee continues to seek support from the Federal and Provincial Governments for implementation of recommendations by the City and other parties.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the Second Annual Report as described in Attachment A and B should be approved for submission to the Ontario Chief Coroner together with the completed Chart of Responses to Jury Recommendations template provided by the Ontario Chief Coroner (Attachment C);

BACKGROUND

The Inquest started on October 5, 2015, and concluded on June 28, 2016. The City was granted standing at the Inquest and provided evidence through a panel presentation by former City Manager Tim Commisso, Karen Lewis, Director – Corporate Strategic Services, John Hannam, City Clerk, and Donna Sippala, Director – Recreation & Culture (Acting).

The City provided evidence with respect to the general operation of the municipality including funding, its Strategic Plans, and its ability to pass by-laws with respect to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality.

Evidence also described programs and initiatives supported by the City including:

- Diversity Thunder Bay
- Thunder Bay Anti-Racism & Respect Committee
- Aboriginal Liaison Strategy
- Elder's Advisory Council
- Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council
- Thunder Bay Drug Strategy
- Recreation and Facilities Master Plan
- Thunder Bay Youth Strategy
- Respect. Initiative
- P.R.O. Kids
- Children's Charter
- Inspire Thunder Bay Culture Plan

As well, the City gave evidence on initiatives undertaken in response to the goals established by the various City Strategic Plans adopted by City Council over the years including:

- Declaration of Commitment between the City and Urban Aboriginal People
- Declaration of Commitment between the City and Fort William First Nation

- Involvement in orientation and welcoming students coming to Thunder Bay for high school
- Development of the respect. Positive Youth Identity campaign
- Development of options for a youth centre
- Establishment of a youth centre in partnership with Wasaya Group Inc.
- Support of a youth centre within the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, now known as the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
- Sponsorship of the Fall Feast and Festival of Services
- Short documentary film series “Walk a Mile”, curriculum and training
- Aboriginal Youth Development program
- Supporting the development of Student Living Centres for students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School and Matawa Learning Centre

On June 12, 2017, Committee of the Whole approved the City of Thunder Bay’s First Annual Report as contained in Report R61/2017 (Corporate Strategic Services) on the Seven Youth Inquest for submission to the Ontario Chief Coroner.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

Attachment A – City of Thunder Bay Second Annual Report on Seven Youth Inquest at June 25, 2017 (DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Attachment B – Update on Recommendation 115 River and Watercourse Safety Audit (DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Attachment C – Response to Jury Recommendations to City - Template provided by Ontario Chief Coroner at June 25, 2018

Letter from Ontario Chief Coroner Dirk Huyer, MD, dated November 3, 2016, providing response codes for responses to the recommendations

PREPARED BY: Karen Lewis, Director – Corporate Strategic Services

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY: (NAME OF GENERAL MANAGER) Norm Gale, City Manager	DATE: June 20, 2018
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