

City's Initial Response to **Seven Youth Inquest**

COW, February 27, 2017
Corporate Report R28/2017



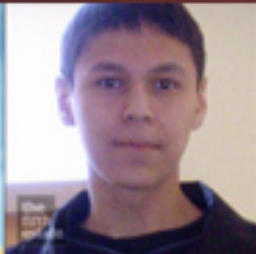
SEVEN YOUTH INQUEST



Jethro
Anderson



Curran
Strang



Paul
Panacheese



Robyn
Harper



Reggie
Bushie



Kyle
Morriseau



Jordan
Wabasse

Courtesy of: www.nan.on.ca



Summary



October 5, 2015 Inquest started

June 28, 2016 Inquest concluded

145 Recommendations issued by the Jury

31 Recommendations directed to the City (among other parties)

Attachment A Proposed approach to implementation of the recommendations directed to the City

May 29, 2017 Corporate Strategic Services will report back to Committee of the Whole with an Annual Report on implementation



City Participation

- City granted standing at the Inquest
- Provided evidence through a panel presentation comprised of former City Manager Tim Commisso, Karen Lewis, Director – Corporate Strategic Services, John Hannam, City Clerk, and Donna Sippala, Director – Recreation and Culture (Acting)
- City provided evidence on general operation of the municipality including funding, Strategic Plans, and ability to pass by-laws with respect to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality.



City Participation



Evidence described Programs and Initiatives supported by City including:

- Diversity Thunder Bay
- Thunder Bay Anti-Racism and Respect Committee
- Aboriginal Liaison Strategy
- Elder’s Advisory Council
- Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Strategy
- 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



City Participation



Evidence on Initiatives in response to Strategic Plans over the years:

- Declaration of Commitment between the City and Urban Aboriginal People
- Declaration of Commitment between the City and Fort William First Nation
- Development of a welcoming strategy for newcomers to Thunder Bay with an initial focus on 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
- Sponsorship of the Fall Feast and Festival of Services
- Short documentary film series “Walk-a-Mile”
- Aboriginal Youth Development program
- Supporting the development of Student Living Centre for students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School on lands owned by Confederation College.



Purpose of Inquest

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.”

“We trust they (the recommendations) will be given careful consideration for implementation and, if not implemented, that your organization provides an explanation.”

- Ontario Chief Coroner Dirk Huyer



Internal Team



- Director of Corporate Strategic Services
- City Clerk & the Aboriginal Liaison Office
- Director of Recreation and Culture

- Director of Human Resources
- Supervisor – Development, Staffing and Support Services
- Manager of Transit
- Program Supervisor – Children and Youth
- Coordinator – Planning, Projects & Development (Community Services)
- Crime Prevention Council Coordinator
- Thunder Bay Drug Strategy Coordinator
- Legal Services



Guiding Statements #7

- 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.



Examples of Our Approach



Deep Consultation and Seeking Guidance:

- One on one meetings with community partners relative to providing students with firsthand information regarding community supports and opportunities in Thunder Bay (#49, #74, #102, #110, #116, #117)
- Partners Forum for input on city-wide youth programming including opportunities at the new Youth Centre – Kinsmen Site (#107)
- Safety Audit of Rivers frequented by First Nations Youth (#115)



Examples of Our Approach



Inclusion in Major Plans:

- Recreation & Facilities Master Plan approved by City Council January 16, 2017 including:
 - Mentorship (#75)
 - Social Media regarding programs (#100)
 - Tap into Voices First Nations and Métis youth (#105)
- Aboriginal Liaison Strategy (#118, #119)
- 2017-2020 Community Safety and Well-being Strategy approved by Council in December 2016 (#115, #75, #112) and Anti-Racism & Respect Work Plan (#112) approved by Council in November 2015



Examples of Our Approach



Heightening awareness:

- Targeted outreach for the Key (#103) and P.R.O. Kids (#104)
- Declaration of Commitment (#111)



Examples of Our Approach



Seeking support from other orders of government:

- Expression of Interest to Public Safety Canada for a Youth Inclusion Program (#75)
- Enhanced Cultural Sensitivity Training – needs to be determined (#118)



Role of Council's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

- Seeking funding support from Canada and Ontario (# 120)
- Meeting with David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Meetings with Minister Patty Hajdu and MP Don Rusnak



Conclusion

- Corporate Report and Initial Response will be posted on City`s website:

www.thunderbay.ca/aboriginalrelations

- Annual Report will be presented to Committee of the Whole for approval Monday, May 29, 2017

