Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 20, 2022

REPORTS

Item No. 7 Indigenous Symbolic Items in the Council Chamber

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That a large land map of the Dakota Nations traditional territory be framed and mounted permanently in the Winnipeg Council Chamber and that Dakota Nation leaders and Elders be invited to the Council Chamber involving ceremonial protocols and presentation of the symbolic item.

2. That a sealskin and traditional Qulliq oil lamp, portraying Inuit culture and used by Inuit for millennia, be permanently added to the Winnipeg Council Chamber, that the Winnipeg Public Service continue ongoing collaboration with Tunngasugit to obtain the items, and that Tunngasugit leaders and Elders be invited to the Council Chamber for ceremonial protocols and presentation of the symbolic items.

3. That Indigenous Relations continues engagement and collaboration with Treaty One Nation, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak to obtain their recommendations to permanently add Anishinaabe, Métis, and Cree symbolic items within the Winnipeg Council Chamber.

4. That Indigenous Relations continues collaboration with the Winnipeg Public Service to ensure any recommendations align with the historical designation of the Council Building, Heritage Permit requirements, and the City Clerk's Department on protocol related matters.

5. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Councillor Mayes to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

His Worship Mayor Bowman resumed the Chair.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 24, 2022, Council concurred in the March 16, 2022, recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That a further extension of time of up to 60 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service, led by the Indigenous Relations Division, to report back on the following:

    A. Engage with Indigenous governments and stakeholders on how best to reflect Indigenous history and culture through the permanent addition of a symbolic item or items displayed in Council Chamber to honour the land on which the City of Winnipeg is situated; and

    B. Consult the Planning, Property and Development Department to ensure any recommendations align with the historical designation of the Council Building and the City Clerk's Department on protocol related matters.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 27, 2022, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 19, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee submitted to Council that an extension of time of up to 60 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service, led by the Indigenous Relations Division, be directed to:

    A. Engage with Indigenous governments and stakeholders on how best to reflect Indigenous history and culture through the permanent addition of a symbolic item or items displayed in Council Chamber to honour the land on which the City of Winnipeg is situated; and

    B. Consult the Planning, Property and Development Department to ensure any recommendations align with the historical designation of the Council Building and the City Clerk's Department on protocol related matters.

    C. Report back within 90 days.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On October 28, 2021, Council concurred in the following notice of motion and adopted the following:

Moved by Councillor Orlikow,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS in a historic ceremony on September 15, 2021 the flags of Treaty 1 First Nations, the Dakota Nations and the Metis Nation were raised outside Winnipeg's City Hall;

AND WHEREAS initiatives such as the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord and the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy demonstrate progress the City of Winnipeg has made on its Journey of Reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS progress has been made but it should be recognized that there is more to do;

AND WHEREAS there is an absence of symbols honouring Indigenous peoples within the Council Chamber;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHERAS in recognition of the need to rectify that, a permanent and tangible symbol or item recognizing Indigenous peoples and their history, in all its rich diversity, within Council Chambers could be added;

AND WHEREAS consultation with Indigenous governments and stakeholders should be undertaken to determine how best to honour and recognize the history of the land on which the City of Winnipeg Council Chamber resides.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service, led by the Indigenous Relations Division, be directed to:

    A. Engage with Indigenous governments and stakeholders on how best to reflect Indigenous history and culture through the permanent addition of a symbolic item or items displayed in Council Chamber to honour the land on which the City of Winnipeg is situated; and

    B. Consult the Planning, Property and Development Department to ensure any recommendations align with the historical designation of the Council Building and the City Clerk's Department on protocol related matters.

    C. Report back within 90 days.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Indigenous Symbolic Items in the Council Chamber

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	M. Jack	R. Provencher, Acting CFO	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2021, Indigenous Relations began to notify Indigenous governments and representative organizations of the City's intention to engage and consult for the purpose of obtaining their recommendations involving the new and permanent addition of Anishinaabe, Dakota, Cree, Métis, and Inuit symbolic items in the Winnipeg Council Chamber.

In Winnipeg, changes in recent years have brought great entrepreneurial, scientific, and cultural achievement, and the beginnings of what is intended to be a transformative journey of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The current state of society has also brought urgent calls for reflection, equity, and change from the status quo, globally and locally, that can't be ignored.

The Winnipeg Indigenous Accord is one example of the City's commitment to building an ongoing process of reconciliation in Winnipeg, a process that is based on the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments, organizations, and individuals.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

From November 2021 to March 2022, Indigenous Relations had discussions with administrative and governing members of Treaty One Nation, Unkan Wanbdi Wakita for Dakota Nations of Manitoba, Tunngasugit, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak to begin a process and adhering to protocols to obtain recommendations.

This report contains recommendations from Tunngasugit and Dakota Nations of Manitoba identifying items to be permanently added to the Council Chamber, as well as progress updates from Treaty One Nation, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a large land map of the Dakota Nations traditional territory be framed and mounted permanently in the Winnipeg Council Chamber and that Dakota Nation leaders and Elders be invited to the Council Chamber involving ceremonial protocols and presentation of the symbolic item.

2. That a sealskin and traditional Qulliq oil lamp, portraying Inuit culture and used by Inuit for millennia, be permanently added to the Winnipeg Council Chamber, that the Winnipeg Public Service continue ongoing collaboration with Tunngasugit to obtain the items, and that Tunngasugit leaders and Elders be invited to the Council Chamber for ceremonial protocols and presentation of the symbolic items.

3. That Indigenous Relations continues engagement and collaboration with Treaty One Nation, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak to obtain their recommendations to permanently add Anishinaabe, Métis, and Cree symbolic items within the Winnipeg Council Chamber.

4. That Indigenous Relations continues collaboration with the Winnipeg Public Service to ensure any recommendations align with the historical designation of the Council Building, Heritage Permit requirements, and the City Clerk's Department on protocol related matters.

5. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On October 28, 2021, Council concurred in the notice of motion of the Executive Policy Committee and directed that the Winnipeg Public Service, led by the Indigenous Relations Division:

A. Engage with Indigenous governments and stakeholders on how best to reflect Indigenous history and culture through the permanent addition of a symbolic item or items displayed in Council Chamber to honour the land on which the City of Winnipeg is situated; and

B. Consult the Planning, Property and Development Department to ensure any recommendations align with the historical designation of the Council Building and the City Clerk's Department on protocol related matters.

C. Report back within 90 days.

On January 27, 2022, Council granted an extension of time of up to 60 days for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the matter.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the recommendations of this report are concurred in, the Dakota Nations map, Sealskin, and Qulliq lamp will be obtained and permanently added to the Council Chamber. Indigenous Relations has allocated up to $13,300 from the Journey of Reconciliation budget and is also exploring the availability of other existing City budgets to contribute to the total cost.

Engagement and collaboration will continue with Treaty One Nation, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak to obtain their recommendations.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In addition to the Treaty One, Dakota, and Métis Nations represented by the recently installed flags at City Hall, Indigenous Relations also consulted representatives of Tunngasugit and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) for inclusion of Inuit and Cree perspectives and cultures representative of the local population in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg has the largest Indigenous population of major Canadian cities and is growing faster than the non-Indigenous population. Demographic data identifies that in 2016, 54 per cent of the Indigenous population in Winnipeg identified as Métis, 44 per cent identified as First Nations, and 2 per cent identified as Inuk (Inuit). This context creates significant opportunities for truth and reconciliation, and Indigenous participation and influence in Winnipeg.

In Winnipeg, changes in recent years have brought great entrepreneurial, scientific, and cultural achievement, and the beginnings of what is intended to be a transformative journey of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The current state of society has also brought urgent calls for reflection, equity, and change from the status quo, globally and locally, that can't be ignored.

The Winnipeg Indigenous Accord is one example of the City's commitment to building an ongoing process of reconciliation in Winnipeg, a process that is based on the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments, organizations, and individuals.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

In October 2021, Indigenous Relations began to notify Indigenous governments and representative organizations of the City's intention to engage and consult for the purpose of obtaining their recommendations involving the new and permanent addition of Anishinaabe, Dakota, Cree, Métis, and Inuit symbolic items in the Winnipeg Council Chamber.

From November 2021 to March 2022, Indigenous Relations arranged discussions with administrative and governing members of Treaty One Nation, Unkan Wanbdi Wakita for Dakota Nations of Manitoba, Tunngasugit, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak to begin a process and adhering to protocols to obtain recommendations.

The following recommendations and progress updates were received from Treaty One Nation, Unkan Wanbdi Wakita for Dakota Nations of Manitoba, Tunngasugit, the Manitoba Métis Federation, and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak.

Tunngasugit Recommendation

Tunngasugit, governed by Inuit, is in support of this initiative which is designed to promote equity, diversity and inclusion with respect to Indigenous relations within the City of Winnipeg. The recommendations are provided with the intent that Inuit consultation is at the forefront of this initiative and that Tunngasugit is a part of the process with how and what is being placed in the City of Winnipeg Council Chamber. It is vitally important to Tunngasugit that relationships are formed and that there is transparency throughout this process and that Inuit are represented appropriately and properly given the decades of misinformation, misunderstanding and colonization brought upon Inuit culture.

Tunngasugit provided the following recommendation concerning symbolic items to be permanently added to the Council Chamber.

1. Sealskin: For millennia, the seal has long portrayed Inuit culture and is a very important part of who we are and where we come from among other things, we depend on the seal for food and for fur, we use the whole animal, right down to the bones and intestines. Seal has many beneficial nutrients for the human body. In the arctic there are no trees, and no produce grown therefore the game caught in the north, provided many of these healthy nutrients to individuals.

2. Qulliq: The Qulliq, is the traditional oil lamp that has been used by Inuit for millennia and has a significant importance to who Inuit are and how we survived the arctic for many years. This oil lamp provided warmth and light in the harsh arctic environment where there was no wood and where Inuit relied entirely on seal oil and whale blubber for heat in their dwelling. This lamp is the single most important article used by Inuit.

Dakota Nations of Manitoba Recommendation

A large land map of the Dakota Nations traditional territory is recommended to be framed and mounted permanently in the Winnipeg Council Chamber. Unkan Wanbdi consulted with governance leaders of the five Dakota Nations of Manitoba to identify an item to permanently add to the Winnipeg Council Chamber, a significant symbol in recognition of the Dakota peoples, their vast traditional territory across North America, and their communities in Manitoba.

Unkan Wanbdi Wakita (Grandfather) was born in the community of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, near Brandon, Man. His name translates into English, as Looking Eagle. Wanbdi embodies and transmits the Dakota ways of living. His early life was infused with love and teachings from his mother and grandfather. He grew up speaking the Dakota language, learning about Ceremony and living the Dakota way of life. As a child he had many Sacred experiences that foretold of the work that would come later when he was an adult. When he would share about these experiences, his grandfather would reassure him, “Takoja, Ija hna wakanpi. They are holy too. Do not be afraid.” His experiences as a residential school survivor, a Peacekeeper in continental Europe and the Canadian Armed Forces, and through his journey of healing, Unkan Wanbdi surrendered into the role of Wicasa Wakan, or Holy Man.

Unkan Wanbdi has attended Sundances, both in the United States and Canada, for over fifty years. He is a Sundance chief, spiritual leader and strong voice to preserve Dakota language and culture. Wanbdi is described as, “gentle and soft spoken, a man of profound wisdom.” He possesses a rare breadth of traditional and culture knowledge, which he combines with a message of love. In July 2016, Unkan Wanbdi was invested into the Order of Manitoba for his lifelong efforts to support individual healing and unity between all nations.

Prior to European contact, the Ininiwak and Anishinaabe had Treaty relationships with the Dakota who lived in southwestern Manitoba. Although the Dakota people were not a part of the Numbered Treaties they are recognized as occupying their own lands within Manitoba and have secured alliances and arrangements with the Crown.

Manitoba Métis Federation Recommendation

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) has expressed interest in bringing forward a recommendation to the City of Winnipeg and this is in progress with the MMF Engagement and Consultation Department and MMF leadership. This recommendation will be provided in a future report to the Executive Policy Committee.

The Manitoba Métis Federation is the democratic Government of the Red River Métis, also known as the Manitoba Métis, which is the heart of the Historic Métis Nation. The Manitoba Métis negotiated Canada’s entry into the North-West and is Canada’s Partner in Confederation and the Founder of the Province of Manitoba.

The Red River Métis have a strong distinct identity and share a common history in the great western plains centred in the Red River Valley. The Red River Métis also identify as Bois Brûlés, flower beadwork people, Otipemisiwak, Louis Riel’s people, and as Michif.

The Red River Métis are the People of the 1816 Battle of Seven Oaks, also known as the Victory at Frog Plain. It was from this battle that the new Métis Nation was born. Just prior to that birth the symbol of the Métis Nation - the infinity flag of the Red River Métis - more commonly known as the Métis Nation flag, was first unfurled at Red River.

Treaty One Nation Recommendation

Treaty One Nation has expressed interest in bringing forward a recommendation to the City of Winnipeg and this is in progress with the Treaty One Director of Governance and the Treaty One Governing Council. This recommendation will be provided in a future report to the Executive Policy Committee.

Treaty No. 1 was negotiated and entered into on August 3, 1871, with seven Treaty One First Nations in Manitoba: Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation; Sagkeeng First Nation; Long Plain First Nation; Peguis First Nation; Roseau River Annishinabe First Nation; Sandy Bay First Nation; and Swan Lake First Nation.

Today, Treaty One Nation’s leadership form the Council that guides their governing system, including the development of Treaty One lands across Southern Manitoba. Creator has gifted First Nations people with inherent sovereignty including laws, teachings, ways of knowing and being that guide Treaty One Nation’s decisions in the best interests of Treaty One First Nation peoples, lands, and relatives.

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak – Cree Nations Manitoba Recommendation

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) has expressed interest in discussing protocols to bring forward a recommendation to the City of Winnipeg and this is in progress with Grand Chief Garrison Settee, MKO Executive Director, and Cree Elders. This recommendation will be provided in a future report to the Executive Policy Committee.

MKO is a political advocacy organization that provides a collective voice on issues of inherent, Treaty, Aboriginal, and human rights for the citizens of the sovereign First Nations MKO represents. MKO represents citizens of twenty-six (26) First Nations who are signatories to Treaties 4, 5, 6 and 10. Grand Chief Garrison Settee, elected, serves as the principal spokesperson. A regionally representative Executive Council of Chiefs provides ongoing direction between General Assemblies.

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak is the Cree equivalent of northern Manitoba Chiefs. Okimakanak means “made Chiefs,” or those persons who were chosen for the purposes of signing Treaty and who have been elected in subsequent years to govern the affairs of First Nations in a form consistent with the provisions of the federal Indian Act.

Historical Designation of the Council Building

Indigenous Relations is consulting with the City’s Heritage Planner and Heritage Officer in the Planning, Property and Development Department to determine if any of the new Indigenous items to be added to the Council Chamber qualify for Heritage Permits. In addition, it is not expected that displaying the recommended Indigenous symbolic items will require permanent alterations to the any of the interior elements of the Council Chamber concerning wood, bronze accents, limestone walls, or the gold mosaic ceiling.

Indigenous Relations has allocated up to $13,300 from the Journey of Reconciliation budget and is also exploring the availability of other existing City budgets to contribute to this total cost. If no other funding sources are identified, Indigenous Relations will absorb the entire $13,300 cost.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: March 16, 2022

Project Name:
Indigenous Symbolic Items in the Council Chamber

First Year of Program 2022

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 13,300	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 13,300	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	13,300	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs of $13,300 represent the estimated cost to permanently add Indigenous symbolic items to the Council Chamber as outlined in the report, and will be funded by the Indigenous Relations Division's Journey of Reconciliation 2022 adopted operating budget.

"electronically approved by J. Peters"
Jocelyn Peters, CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Planning, Property and Development Department
- City Clerks Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance OurWinnipeg 2045 (subject to third reading by Council):

They embody the following goals and policies:

Leadership and Good Governance
Policy 1.11 – Representative and Participatory Democracy
Create meaningful engagement opportunities with residents, stakeholders and rightsholders, who are interested in or impacted by a decision. Develop standards for engagement including notification, information-sharing, and a process for incorporating feedback into decision-making. ER, EP, HW, SE, CB

Social Equity
Policy 5.4 – Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
Prioritize municipal implementation responsibilities within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice. LG, ER, EP, HW, CB

Policy 5.5 – Indigenous Lens
Develop an Indigenous lens, which recognizes, respects, and advances multiple and diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis knowledge, rights, and perspectives. Apply the lens throughout municipal leadership and governance processes, policies, programs and practices to eliminate elements that knowingly or unknowingly enable the exclusion of Indigenous Peoples. LG, ER, EP, HW, CB

Policy 5.8 – Community Cohesion
Provide opportunities for creative, cultural, and artistic expression through municipal facility design, public place-making, and community-led initiatives to promote community relationship-building, identity and sense of belonging. HW, CB

Policy 5.9 – Heritage Conservation
Provide opportunities for heritage education, truth-telling, and reconciliation, through the commemoration, conservation, and stewardship of both tangible and intangible heritage resources, including Indigenous land-based practices and artifacts, public names, places, and art, museum artifacts, and archived information. LG, HW

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021 – 2031) as follows:

They embody the following Guiding Principles:

- We will Uphold Human Rights
- We will Honour Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous People

SUBMITTED BY

Department: CAO-Indigenous Relations
Division:
Prepared by: Tracey Cechvala
Date: March 25, 2022
File No: N/A

Attachments: N/A