

Subject: Letter of Support - Education Crisis, Fort Chipewyan**APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Mayor sign a letter of support to the Federal Minister of Indigenous Services Canada and the Provincial Minister of Education requesting an urgent meeting be held with community leaders regarding the education crisis that exists in Fort Chipewyan.

Summary:

On June 18, 2019, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo received a request from the Mikisew Cree First Nation, to consider passing a motion to support the efforts of the Fort Chipewyan community leaders to call for an urgent meeting with the Federal Minister of Indigenous Services and the Provincial Minister of Education to discuss the education crisis in that community.

Background:

The 2010 Northland School Division Inquiry Team Report ("Report") (Attachment 1) made several recommendations to the Government of Alberta for improvements in Northlands Schools throughout Alberta. Despite this Report, the 2008 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (Attachment 2) and the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (Attachment 3), substandard education services still exist in Alberta. Specifically, in Fort Chipewyan, education has reached a crisis level with no graduates for the 2018 - 2019 school year and a marked departure of teachers, who will not be returning for various reasons, such as housing and work conditions.

Rationale for Recommendation:

With nearly a decade since the release of the Report, an urgent meeting is required with Federal and Provincial Ministers to discuss the current status of recommendations contained in the Report and to create an immediate plan of action to ensure students receive a proper education beginning with the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

Attachments:

- 1. 2010 Northland School Division Inquiry Team Report**
- 2. 2008 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- 3. 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action**