

**Subject: Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Addition to Reserve****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Mayor send a letter of support to the Federal Minister of the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's Addition to Reserve for inclusion of the Acden Lot; and

THAT Administration be directed to work with Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation to enter into a Service Agreement and an Agreement to harmonize governance for the Acden Lot.

**Summary:**

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) has brought forward a request for municipal support to include the lot where Acden is located - 220 Taiganova Crescent in Fort McMurray, Plan 1021463, Block 1, Lot 7A (the "Acden Lot") to its proposed Addition to Reserve (ATR) request that was originally put forward in 2008. In a letter dated March 13, 2019 (Attachment 1), ACFN requests that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) provide a letter of support to ACFN and the Government of Canada (GOC) for the inclusion of the Acden Lot as part of the original ATR request. The letter also requests that the RMWB enter into a Municipal Service Agreement (MSA) with ACFN for the Acden Lot.

**Background:**

On January 23, 2018 Council unanimously supported the motion that the Mayor send a letter of support to the Federal Minister of the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for the ACFN ATR request. This request included 93 lots within the hamlet of Fort Chipewyan, one commercial and 92 residential. Additionally, Council unanimously supported that Administration be directed to work with ACFN to enter into a Service Agreement and an agreement to harmonize governance. Further to a letter of support being provided, Administration has since developed an internal working committee that meets on a biweekly basis with the objective of developing an MSA to ensure cost recovery for provision of municipal services to those lands.

Most recently, Administration received a letter from ACFN on March 13, 2019 regarding their desire to include 220 Taiganova Crescent in Fort McMurray, also known as “the Acden lot” in the original ATR request that was received in 2008. Specifically, ACFN requests that the RMWB provide a letter of support to ACFN and the government of Canada for the inclusion of the Acden lot as an addition to reserve, and requests that the RMWB enter into a Municipal Service Agreement with ACFN with respect to the Acden lot. ACFN’s Council has also requested an opportunity to attend the next RMWB Council meeting to provide additional information and discuss the request in detail.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

The Municipality will recover costs through a Municipal Service Agreement with ACFN.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Municipal Council previously approved the addition to reserve of other lands in Fort Chipewyan and provided a letter of support dated January 25, 2018 in respect of those lands to the ACFN and the GOC. That approval did not include the Acden Lands as part of the additions to reserve and therefore RMWB's municipal council will need to consider this request separately.

Supporting this additional request would demonstrate the municipalities ongoing commitment to reconciliation while strengthening and enhancing relationships with Indigenous people and communities within the RMWB. The inclusion of the Acden Lot will also provide significant tax and commercial benefits to First Nation employees that would result in income being retained and circulated within the local economy, contributing to the overall revitalization of the municipality, while increasing Indigenous participation in the local work force.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

**Attachments:**

- 1. Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Addition to Reserve Request**
- 2. Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Response Letter to Chief Adam**