

**Subject: Indigenous Summit****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

This report is provided as a follow up to the request made during the 2020 Budget Meetings and is for information. Options for Council's consideration is included in the alternatives portion of the report.

If work is to continue with respect to this proposed initiative, Administration is seeking further direction on the goals, objectives, and desired outcomes of an Indigenous Summit.

**Summary:**

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held their annual budget meetings from November 27 to November 29, 2020. Following the presentation of the Communications, Stakeholder, Indigenous and Rural Relations (CSIRR) operational budget, Mayor Scott proposed the RMWB host a summit with all Indigenous leaders in the region.

**Background:**

Indigenous summits often provide opportunities for First Nations, Métis organizations, elected officials, and senior staff of local governments to work towards common objectives. Objectives can include fostering future cooperative actions, advancing more formal relationships, supporting local reconciliation efforts, or improving coordinated approaches to specific areas of mutual importance like economic development and emergency management.

Preliminary research indicates that summits are typically hosted by third parties, Tribal Councils, or Indigenous organizations. Examples of summits hosted with similar objectives to those outlined above include:

- The Northern Leaders' Summit hosted by Northern Alberta Development Council. This included northern Alberta MLAs, mayors and reeves, First Nation chiefs, Métis settlement chairs and Northern Alberta Development Council members.

The main objective was to engage northern leaders and provide an opportunity to share their priorities and unique circumstances with the provincial government. Taking place in 2018, there were 158 attendees, representing 46 northern municipalities, seven First Nations, seven Métis settlements, as well as eight Cabinet ministers and then Alberta Premier Rachel Notley.

- The First Nations Summit in British Columbia provides funding to Community Forums between First Nations and local governments to increase understanding and overall relations. The forum provides dialogue opportunities between neighbouring First Nations, elected officials and senior staff of local governments. The event objectives include: strengthening relationships, fostering future cooperation, advancing more formal relationships (Memorandums of Understandings, service agreements, protocols, etc.), and supporting local shared capacity building initiatives.

### **Alternatives:**

Alternatives to consider may include:

- 1) That CSIRR continue to work with the newly developed Reconciliation Advisory Circle and propose and develop the idea of a Summit.
- 2) That CSIRR seek out to collaborate with organizations like the Northern Alberta Development Council and identify opportunities for participation in future Summits.
- 3) CSIRR to explore the actual costs and resources required to host an Indigenous Summit and gauge interest from the local First Nations and Métis organizations.

### **Budget/Financial Implications:**

Given the number of Indigenous organizations in the region, preliminary research indicates that a Summit would cost approximately \$100,000 and therefore additional funds may be required within the CSIRR budget. At this time, it is also unclear as to what additional resources will be required from a staffing perspective and how collaborative relationships internally and externally can be used to help share the work.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

An event like this will require a great deal of work between the Municipality and Indigenous groups. It will be important to have a clear understanding of what Council would like to achieve from a summit of this nature and what Indigenous groups would like to achieve. For this event to be successful, there will need to be shared objectives and desired outcomes.

Should an event like this move forward, it could potentially encompass several Strategic Plan priorities, including, but not limited to:

- #3f - Support Arts and Culture

- #4a - Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action
- #4b - Indigenous Consultation
- #4d - Amalgamation Review
- #4f - Inclusion and Partnerships
- #4g - Advocate for Rural and Indigenous communities

**Strategic Priorities:**

Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships