

YOUTH VOICES RISING: Recovery & Resilience in Wood Buffalo



To: RMWB Mayor Don Scott and Council

Date: November 27, 2018 / Location: RMWB Council Meeting

Thank you for inviting Mariam Arain, age 15, and Brina Cardinal, age 17, to present at the RMWB meeting on November 27, 2018 to launch the “2018 Youth Vision & Voice in Wood Buffalo” report. As you know, youth in Wood Buffalo are creative, innovative citizens with a vision for vibrant, resilient communities. They want greater involvement and influence on decisions being made after 2016 Horse River wildfire disaster that directly and indirectly affect them. This point is highlighted in the “Youth Vision & Voice” report that shares youth (age 14-24) concerns, ideas, priorities and possibilities for greater youth engagement across Wood Buffalo with the intent that youth voices will be amplified, shared, heard, valued, and responded to.

In launching this report at the Council meeting, we have 3 “asks” of the Mayor and Council:

1) To consider the youth priorities and calls-to-action presented in the "2018 Youth Vision and Voice in Wood Buffalo" report (*see the included report*).

2) To formally commit to an *all-of-society* approach to reducing disaster risk and strengthening youth resilience as called for in the *2015-2030 Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction*, adopted by Canada March 18, 2015 (*see the included document*). Notably:

- Preamble page 10 says that a “gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices” and
- Page 10 says that “Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards.”

3) To formally commit to meaningfully engage youth as key stakeholders in planning decisions, with a particular focus on youth participation in rural and Indigenous communities as called for in the *RMWB 2018-2021 Strategic Plan*. Notably:

- **#11** – Develop and implement a plan to encourage civic participation and dialogue that will support decision-making processes by the Municipality as it relates to programming, services, projects, policies, and initiatives, and embrace values such as collaboration, information sharing, and accountability. (*Note: Including with youth.*)
- **#1m** – Encourage youth engagement and active citizenship. (*Note: Focusing on meaningful youth engagement.*)
- **#4a** – Implement the calls to action that the Municipality has the jurisdiction to influence, as related to the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action*. (*Note: In particular, with youth involvement in recommending actions and offering ideas.*)
- **#4b** – Develop an Indigenous consultation policy. (*Note: In particular, one that includes youth consultation.*)
- **#4e** – Implement community-based emergency preparedness and work collaboratively with Indigenous and Rural Relations and rural communities to ensure awareness of community events. (*Note: Ensuring meaningful engagement by youth from Indigenous and rural communities.*)
- **#4f** - Increase the inclusion of rural and Indigenous perspectives within initiatives and service delivery processes where there are common interests. (*Note: Including youth perspectives on services that affect them.*)
- **#4g** – Support the CAO in strategy development for Regional rural and Indigenous communities’ advocacy. (*Note: In particular, to include youth when meeting with Indigenous and rural communities.*)

Thank you for listening.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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