

Moccasin Flats Memorial Motion

Background

Moccasin Flats is an area of land at the confluence of the Athabasca and Clearwater Rivers. The Indigenous residents who lived there, primarily McMurray Métis descendants, were moved from their homes in the late 1970s and early 1980s for Fort McMurray's urban development.

In July 2018, Council unanimously passed a motion to collaborate with Indigenous communities and meaningfully reconcile the historical events at Moccasin Flats for all those impacted. A September 2018 McMurray Métis Report - *The Moccasin Flats Evictions: Home, Forced Relocation, and Resilience* - suggests several actions to advance reconciliation and promote healing surrounding the events at Moccasin Flats, including calling for "Remembering History with a Monument and Cultural Center." The Report also noted that the lack of any trace of the history of the evictions, perpetuates the erasure of Indigenous presence at Moccasin Flats.

On December 3, 2020, Council passed the following Motion:

- THAT funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the predesign, design and construction of a memorial to remember the impact of Moccasin Flats, with a target date of 2021, with options being brought forward to Council during Q1 after engagement; and
- THAT Administration bring forward an amendment to the Community Identification Committee Policy to include recognizing the history of our Region.

McMurray Métis surveyed its members on a Moccasin Flats memorial between February 22 and March 7, 2021. Indigenous and Rural Relations (IRR) has led engagement with other Indigenous communities who may have also been impacted by the events that took place. A formal update to Council is scheduled for April 13, 2021.

Community Identification Committee (CIC) Role

One of the Community Identification Committee Policy's objectives is to "Honor Indigenous Place Names and History." IRR's Indigenous engagement includes a question on an appropriate title or name for a memorial to honour all those impacted by the events at Moccasin Flats, recognizing, remembering, and commemorating the region's history.

Depending on Indigenous community responses to this question, and broader findings, IRR may need to engage CIC on the selection of a name for the memorial, in Cree, Dene, or both languages, and move it forward to Council for approval. This would be similar to the approach taken for the recently-named Parks and Dry Ponds in Parsons Creek and the renaming of the Fort McKay Road. With recent Policy revisions in February 2020, further amendments may not be required to address Council's Motion for a Moccasin Flats memorial.

Next Steps

- Continue engagement on the Moccasin Flats Memorial.
- Present summary of engagement feedback to Council on April 13, 2021.
- IRR provide a progress update to the CIC at the Committee's next meeting, at which time initial memorial design elements may be identified.
- IRR and the Community and Protective Services department collaborate with Public Works to align scope and timeline of the memorial's siting and construction with development of Waterfront projects, including the Snye Outdoor Event Space.