

Subject: Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory Recognition Signs**APPROVALS:****Jamie Doyle**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT up to \$34,000 be allocated from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve for design and installation of up to \$17,000 per sign; and

THAT Administration conduct Indigenous engagement that would ensure the inclusion of design elements and wording that respectfully acknowledges Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory.

Summary:

Treaty No. 8 was signed between various First Nations and the Federal Government on June 21, 1899. It covers a vast and diverse geographical area that encompasses portions of three provinces and one territory: Northwest Saskatchewan, Northern Alberta, Northeast British Columbia, and the Southern Northwest Territories. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo falls within the boundaries of Treaty 8.

Background:

During the 2021 Budget development meetings in December, Council passed the following motion:

"THAT Administration work with the Provincial Government regarding the land acquisition for the placement of a sign on Highway 881 and 63 recognizing Treaty 8 and the Unceded Métis Territory and report back to Council by the end of March 2021 with the financial costing for consideration."

Indigenous and Rural Relations (IRR), Planning and Development, Public Works, and Communications and Engagement have worked together to identify potential costs for consideration. Planning and Development estimates that approximately \$10,000 would be required for land surveying, land acquisition, and regulatory and environmental work for each location. Public Works has provided estimates ranging from \$3,500 to \$7,000 for a sign, depending on the size and type. IRR would undertake Indigenous engagement and does not anticipate additional departmental costs outside of its

approved operational budget.

One sign would be erected on Highway 881 South, after the Highway 63 turnoff. A second sign would be erected along Highway 63 North as you enter Fort McMurray. Exact locations would need to be determined in conjunction with Planning and Development and in consultation with the Province.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Based on the exploratory work completed by IRR, Public Works, and Planning and Development, the total cost for the project could range between \$13,500 to \$17,000 per sign.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Land acknowledgements are an honest and historically accurate way of recognizing and expressing gratitude to Indigenous peoples for the land on which we reside. They are a means to commemorate Indigenous peoples' kinship to the land and honour its original occupants. A land acknowledgement is a very basic and fundamental step towards reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships