

**Subject: Municipal Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Business
(Supply Chain Management)****APPROVALS:****Jamie Doyle**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT Administration consult with Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, Indigenous communities and businesses and report to back to Council in Q1 2022 with its strategy for incorporating Indigenous Procurement opportunities into the Municipality's procurement practices, supplemented by required governance documents.

Summary:

On July 6, 2021, Administration presented a progress update to Council with respect to implementing a social procurement program at the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (Municipality). At this meeting, Administration brought forward a recommended motion for Council's consideration:

"THAT Administration be directed to bring forward for Council's consideration an Indigenous Procurement Policy and consult with Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association and Indigenous businesses for this purpose with a target date to be brought before Council no later than Q1 2022."

Council proposed an alternate recommendation whereas consultation and policy development be brought forward for Council's consideration with a target date of September 1, 2021.

Administration has prepared this report for Council in response.

Background:**Indigenous Procurement Engagement:**

Administration, with the support of Buy Social Canada, conducted Indigenous Procurement engagement sessions, in conjunction with social procurement engagement, during July and August 2021. Independent engagement sessions were

held with representatives from the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association and the Oil Sands Community Alliance. Two (2) open engagement sessions were held for Indigenous communities and businesses as well as a one-to-one meeting to accommodate a scheduling conflict. In total, 33 individuals, representing a wide array of stakeholders, participated in this phase of engagement.

There was strong support for the development of an Indigenous Procurement Policy at the Municipality. Other significant benefits identified during the engagement sessions include:

- increased relationship building with key stakeholders, where participants advised the Municipality to continue building inclusive relationships and listening respectfully, while collaborating with Indigenous business;
- commencing engagement at an early enough stage to allow stakeholders to provide meaningful input into the policy development; and
- recognition of the importance of tangible commitments and targets, and the value of tracking these and ensuring accountability over time.

Procurement Strategy Development:

To advance the development of a procurement strategy for Indigenous businesses, as proposed by Buy Social Canada (Attachment 1), the following is recommended:

- establish an Indigenous Procurement Working Group to assist in furthering engagement with Indigenous communities, businesses, and associations to collaboratively develop the framework and associated policy, procedure or protocols, as required;
- engage an Indigenous procurement consultant to work with Administration, Indigenous communities, businesses and associations, and the Indigenous Procurement Working Group to advance the framework, associated policy, procedure or protocols development and an implementation strategy; and
- work collaboratively and engage with Indigenous communities, businesses and associations in the procurement process design, opportunity identification, and establishment of meaningful metrics.

Budget/Financial Implications:

The budgetary impact of fully implementing a procurement strategy and policy for Indigenous businesses has yet to be determined; Administration will remain mindful of this as development continues.

In the immediate future, funds will be required to engage an Indigenous procurement consultant, which can be managed through the existing approved operational budget for

this fiscal year and will be considered in the 2022 budget submission.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Given the strength, experience, and capacity of the Indigenous business community within the Region, and the willingness of Council and Administration to further efforts of reconciliation and community building, advancing the development of this framework and required governance documents will remain a continuing priority. Administration is recommending additional time for on-going collaboration with Indigenous communities and businesses to complete the framework and to develop the required governance documents.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government
Regional Economic Development
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

Attachments:

1. Buy Social Canada Recommendations for Indigenous Procurement Policy Next Step