

Subject: Moccasin Flats**APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Municipality support and collaborate with the Indigenous community of Wood Buffalo to reconcile Moccasin Flats in a manner that is meaningful to all that have been impacted by the events which took place.

Summary:

Moccasin Flats is an area of land at the confluence of the Athabasca and Clearwater Rivers. The Indigenous residents who lived there were forced to move from their homes to make way for urban development.

Background:

Beginning in the 1960s, Legal Services and Records have located documentation referencing Indigenous residents being forced to move from their homes. This documentation continues through the 1970s culminating in a meeting between the residents and the Municipality. While present at the meeting, it is reported that action was taken to bulldoze residents' homes. Events leading up to the 1979 bulldozing indicate that Indigenous Peoples had been displaced across Fort McMurray as a means to prepare for a sanitary sewer main that was planned for construction in 1971, and also to make way for what is known as the "Syncrude Towers". In addition, there is record of measures taken to relocate families to land that is now owned by the Municipality. Historically, there have been several land claims made by Indigenous people within the region; however, most negotiations have been between the Fort McMurray Métis Association and the Municipality.

On June 18, 2018 Legal Services and Indigenous & Rural Relations (IRR) met with Fort McMurray Métis to provide them with historical records dating back to 1911. The records will assist them with the forthcoming report aimed at examining the cultural history and significance of Moccasin Flats. The project will include a comprehensive review of events to understand the impact this had on Indigenous families. It is

anticipated that this report will be complete by September 2018.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Once the report is complete, and an understanding of past events is reached, IRR will continue engagement to better understand next steps in moving towards a reconciled relationship, which may include a public inquiry or apology. The Indigenous community has been vocal about the events that took place at Moccasin Flats and have alluded to wanting the Municipality to provide a public apology or inquiry. A formal request for appropriate reconciliatory actions is yet to be received by the Municipality. The outcome of the comprehensive review by Fort McMurray Métis will enable a better understanding of how to best move forward.

Strategic Priorities:

Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

Attachments:

Presentation - Moccasin Flats