

**Subject: Moccasin Flats - Request for Federal Inquiry****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo call upon the Federal Government for a Federal Inquiry into the matter of Moccasin Flats and that the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to the Federal Government to support this request.

**Summary and Background:**

Moccasin Flats (“the 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.

On June 19, 2018, a presentation was given to Council concerning the Flats, the eviction, the ongoing dialogue between the RMWB and the First Nations and Métis people concerning the November 8, 2016 Indigenous and Rural Relations report and the Calls to Action arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

On July 20, 2018, Council unanimously approved a Resolution: *“That the Municipality Support and collaborate with the Indigenous Community of Wood Buffalo to Reconcile Moccasin Flats in a manner that is meaningful into all that have been impacted by the event which took place; and That the Municipality call upon the provincial government to undertake a public inquiry into Moccasin Flats.”*

On August 10, 2018, Council requested the Premier, who referred the matter to the Alberta Minister of Indigenous Relations, Richard Feehan (“the Minister”), for the province to call a public inquiry into the matter of the Flats.

On September 11, 2018, the Minister responded that he understood that Métis Local 1935 had commissioned the Report concerning the Flats and that calling an inquiry before the Report was provided would be premature.

In September 2018, a report prepared by Hereward Longley and Tara Joly entitled *“The Moccasin Flats Eviction: Metis Home, Forced Relocation, Resilience in Fort McMurray*

*Alberta*” was released by the Fort McMurray Métis Local 1935 (“the Report”).

On November 1, 2018, Mayor Scott wrote to Minister Feehan asking the Minister to coordinate a meeting of relevant parties to discuss options regarding Moccasin Flats.

Since November 1, 2018, RMWB has not heard back from the Minister regarding its request for a public inquiry.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Following a thorough review of the matter to date, both legal counsel and Administration recommends that Council call on the Federal Government to undertake a Federal Inquiry into the Flats as this will ensure that all affected and interested parties are consulted with on the matter to achieve transparency, inclusiveness and completeness.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government  
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships