



MOCCASIN FLATS MEMORIAL

Treaty 8 and unceded Métis
Territory

Public Art Committee
Presentation

May 12, 2021

Indigenous & Rural Relations
Regional Municipality of Wood
Buffalo

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW



1. Moccasin Flats Background
2. Council Motion and Goal
3. Engagement
4. Presentation to Council
5. Next Steps

MOCCASIN FLATS BACKGROUND



- Moccasin Flats is an area of land at the confluence of the Athabasca and Clearwater Rivers. It was an important historical gathering place and home for many Métis and First Nations Peoples.
- The Indigenous residents who lived there, were forcefully removed from their homes in the late 1970s and early 1980s to make way for Fort McMurray's urban development.
- As you can imagine, these events had many negative impacts on local Indigenous communities.

AS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND



- **In July of 2018, Council** Unanimously passed a motion to collaborate with Indigenous communities and meaningfully reconcile the historical events which occurred at Moccasin Flats for all those impacted.
- **In September of 2018 the report titled:** *The Moccasin Flats Evictions: Home, Forced Relocation, and Resilience* – was published by Scholars Hereward Longley and Tara Joly, and calls for “Remembering History with a Monument and Cultural Center”.
- **And then in October of 2019 – the RMWB hosted a Truth and Reconciliation Sharing Circle** – it was at this event that a request was made to the RMWB for progress on the municipal response to address the impacts of Moccasin flats.

MOCCASIN FLATS REPORT



THE MOCCASIN FLATS EVICTIONS:

Métis Home, Forced Relocation, and Resilience
in Fort McMurray, Alberta



Hereward Longley, BA, MA, PhD (ABD)
Tara L. Joly, BAS, PhD

September 2018

- Lack of any material trace or sign of the history of the evictions.
- Several actions to advance reconciliation and promote healing surrounding the events at Moccasin Flats are recommended in the report, including:
 - 6.2 Remembering History with a Monument and Cultural Center

COUNCIL MOTION: DEC 3, 2020



- **The motion was passed on December 3, 2020, 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.

MOTION'S GOAL



- Further advance reconciliation and promote healing with the region's Indigenous Peoples that were impacted
- Strengthen the Municipality's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action
- Ensures past, unjust events in the region's history are recognized, remembered, and commemorated

RMWB ENGAGEMENT – PHASE 1



- Letter of invitation sent to Indigenous Leadership from the Office of the Mayor.
- Indigenous and Rural Relations department engaged with First Nations, Métis organizations, and the Reconciliation Advisory Circle.
- Questions were developed in collaboration with the RMWB Culture and Social Development team to gain feedback.
- A report was provided to Council on April 13, 2021, where the following resolution was passed:
 - **THAT** Administration finalize Indigenous community engagement and validate feedback to further refine Memorial design concepts.

MCMURRAY MÉTIS SURVEY



- Survey to members was launched on February 22, 2021, and closed March 7, 2021.
- Helping to guide the RMWB's engagement of other Indigenous communities and individuals and align common objectives.
- Results were presented to Council on April 13, 2021.

MCMURRAY MÉTIS SURVEY



MCMURRAY
MÉTIS

SILHOUETTES FROM THE PAST



Example for illustration purposes only

THE TRAPPERS PAVILION



Example for illustration purposes only

MCMURRAY MÉTIS SURVEY



MCMURRAY
MÉTIS

Moccasin Flats Memorial - Options

- The Moccasin Flats engagement process resulted in two memorial options that achieve the vision of the McMurray Métis community.
- OPTION A: Silhouettes From The Past
 - 89% of those surveyed preferred this option
- OPTION B: The Trappers Pavilion
 - 10% of those surveyed preferred this option
- Several McMurray Métis members support a combined option.

NEXT STEPS



- Report back to communities to validate initial feedback
- Survey back to communities for additional input to finalize Memorial concepts and location
- Work collaboratively with Indigenous communities through the final design and installation process

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS



Thank you
Mahsi
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