

**Subject: 2018 Alberta Winter Games Host Society Post-Wildfire Assessment****APPROVALS:**

Bob Couture, Executive Director  
Marcel Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer

**Administrative Recommendation:**

THAT the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games Host Society, with support from the community and key stakeholders continue to move forward with plans to host the Alberta Winter Games in February 2018.

**Summary:**

Based on Council's direction on June 8, 2016, Administration contacted Alberta Sport Connection to advise that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games Host Society appointees required 60 days to assess the impact of the recent wildfire on the community and the recreation facilities intended to be used for the event.

From June 21, 2016 to July 6, 2016, public and stakeholder engagements were conducted to determine support for the 2018 Alberta Winter Games. The Alberta Winter Games Host Society recommendation to move forward was made with the understanding of potential Municipal resource constraints.

**Background:**

On June 8, 2016, Council passed the following resolutions:

"THAT Administration advise Alberta Sport Connection that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games Host Society appointees will require 60 days to assess the impact of the recent wildfire on the community and on the recreation facilities intended to be used for the event; and

THAT Administration work with the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games Host Society appointees to prepare and bring forward to Council a recommendation as to the best outcome for the community in respect of the 2018 Alberta Winter Games."

**Alternative:**

Work with Alberta Sport Connection to explore options for hosting alternative multi-sport events.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

The Municipality has committed \$3,372,000 from the Emerging Issues Reserve to host the 2018 Alberta Winter Games.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Key stakeholders, such as businesses, facility operators, and sport and recreation leaders were consulted via telephone, email and public surveys. A public engagement session was also held at McMurray Experience on July 6, 2016 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Feedback indicates that:

- Members of the Board of Directors of the 2018 Alberta Winter Games Host Society unanimously support hosting the 2018 Alberta Winter Games.
- 88% of the stakeholders contacted agree the Municipality will be ready to host the Games. At the time of this report, 25 stakeholders had provided feedback with 22 of them agreeing the Municipality will be ready.
- 49% of the public surveyed agree the Municipality will be ready to host the Games. At the time of this report, 237 surveys were received with 115 people agreeing the Municipality will be ready.
- Facility operators reported that facilities are in good shape overall. Facility operators for those facilities that sustained damage as a result of the wild fire reported they are confident the facilities will be fully operational and support hosting the 2018 Alberta Winter Games.

Hosting the 2018 Alberta Winter Games will enhance the quality of life for residents of the community.

**Strategic Plan Linkages:**

Pillar 1 – Building Responsible Government

Pillar 7 – Building for a Healthy and Active Lifestyle

**Attachments:**

1. 2018 Alberta Winter Games- Stakeholder Engagement
2. 2018 Alberta Winter Games- Proposed Event Schedule