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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

Date: 5/3/2018 8:13:58 AM

Subject: Update on City's Response to National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Attachments: City's Response to National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls_May 2 2018.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see attached memo from Sandra Singh, General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services giving an update on the City's response to the national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

The key points are as follows:

- Based on an April 2017 consultation cohosted by the Urban Indigenous People's Advisory Committee, the City identified a need for culturally-appropriate supports for families and survivors before, during, and after the Inquiry;
- On March 16th 2018, a refurbished city-owned space at 44 East Cordova Street opened and named the Saa-ust Centre, meaning to 'uplift' in the Squamish language;
- The initial plan was to wind down services at the end of April or early May this year. However, given the uptake and ongoing need, staff are seeking opportunities for the 44 East Cordova space to operate pending the availability of a permanent space for an Indigenous Healing and Wellness Centre.

Best,
Paul

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MEMORANDUM

May 2, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girn, Community Relations Director, Mayor's Office
Bill Aujla, Real Estate and Facilities Management
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Arts, Culture & Community Services
Sonja Foley, Director, IGR and Strategic Partnerships

FROM: Sandra Singh
General Manager

SUBJECT: Update on City's Response to National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to advise Mayor and Council of the City's response to recommendations made by the Urban Indigenous People's Advisory Committee with respect to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Background:

In April 2017, consultation between the Urban Indigenous People's Advisory Committee and about fifty different community and government organizations was undertaken to determine how the City could support the families and survivors participating in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and

Memo to Mayor and Council re: Update on City's Response to National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls May 2 2018

Girls. The consultation identified as a priority the need for support for culture, tradition and ceremony as an important part of taking care of families before, during, and after the Inquiry.

On March 16th, a city-owned space located at 44 East Cordova Street was refurbished and opened providing healing and wellness supports to families and survivors as well as the opportunity to register and provide statements in preparation for the Inquiry. The approximate 2,500 square foot East Cordova space is named the Saa-ust Centre, meaning to 'uplift' in the Squamish language. Elder Shane Pointe suggested the name as he cleansed and prepared the space, which had been vacated for about 15 years.

The space is uniquely operated as a partnership between the City of Vancouver, Native Court Workers of BC, and Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council. From mid-March until now, both cash and in kind contributions have been received from another 17 organizations, including Vancouver Coastal Health, the Province of BC (Public Health Agency of BC, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Public Safety and Solicitor General); the Federal Government, (Ministry of Justice and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry), several non-profit organizations, and private donations from local business. In addition, several local Indigenous artists contributed to the space, including permanent murals provided by Jeska Slater and Andrew Dixel and loaned works from Culture Saves Lives and the City of Vancouver.

According to the Inquiry staff, Vancouver is the only city in Canada to have provided this level of response.

Current Status:

Over 300 people from 28 different nations accessed services over a six week period between March 27 and April 26. The space has created significant opportunity for healing and wellness and has been utilized by Indigenous residents from across Vancouver. The initial plan was to wind down services at the end of April or early May. However, given the uptake and priority need, staff are seeking opportunities for the space at 44 East Cordova to remain open until a permanent solution for a healing and wellness centre is secured.

Next Steps:

- 1) Build a Legacy of Healing & Wellness - City staff have identified a potential permanent location at the 312 Main Street site leased to VanCity as the Jim Green Centre for Social Innovation. Conversations are underway with VanCity and various staff departments;
- 2) Transition to a non profit Partner Lead - While staff have been directly involved in management and service provision before, during, and after the Inquiry, a request for proposals for a non-profit Indigenous led operator for an interim

period is being contemplated;

- 3) Seek Sustainability in Reconciliation - Staff are also working with funding and other partners to seek assistance with continued contributions towards staffing and operational costs of the Saa-ust Centre;
- 4) Continue to Learn - An evaluation will provide important feedback as the services eventually transfer to a larger and more suitable permanent site, one that could be realized within the next year;
- 5) Commitment to Ongoing Engagement & Support - The continued engagement of urban Indigenous residents and organizations will be critical to its success. It is expected that Mayor and Council will be updated through a staff report in the coming weeks;

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Singh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Singh
General Manager

tel: 604.871.6858
sandra.singh@vancouver.ca

SS/th