

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

"Crabtree, Katelyn" <Katelyn.Crabtree@vancouver.ca>

Date: 11/14/2019 12:22:23 PM

Subject: Memo - Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) briefing

Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - MVAEC Update (2019-11-14).pdf

CS - Social Policy - MVAEC Memorandum of Understanding Agreement - 2016-....pdf

MVAEC 5 Year Strategic Plan At A Glance 2019-2024.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached you will find a memo from Sandra Singh, the General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services regarding the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) with whom you will be meeting tonight. Highlights include:

- Background on the relationship between the City and Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC);
- Information on key priorities including:
 - Urban Indigenous Strategy
 - Senior Government Partnerships
 - Housing & Homelessness
 - Poverty Reduction/Indigenous Wellbeing & Equity Framework
 - MVAEC & Urban Indigenous Engagement in City Plan
- Attachments including the signed MOU between the City and MVAEC (2016) and the MVAEC 5-Year Strategic Plan.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh directly at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
604.873.7627 | sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

November 14, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Susan Haid, Deputy Director, Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability
Katelyn Crabtree, Manager, Indigenous Relations
Abigail Bond, Managing Director, Homelessness Services & Affordable Housing
Ryan Bigelow, Acting CEO, Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy and Projects
Dianna Hurford, Senior Planner

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) Brief

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to brief Mayor and Council ahead of the November 14th Mayor and Council dinner with Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) members.

BACKGROUND

Many urban Indigenous residents have been born here or moved to Vancouver from their homelands to seek employment, education and the opportunities of urban life – to Vancouver they bring a wealth and diversity of languages, cultures, and lived experience. The 2016 Census indicates that there are over 61,000 Indigenous people in Metro Vancouver, of which nearly 14,000 live within the City of Vancouver, outside of reserve communities.¹ Indigenous

¹ MVAEC estimates between 70,000 and 100,000 Indigenous people live in the region, higher than those who self-report and self-identify due to the legacy of residential schools and colonial practices and the erasure of cultural identity.

Vancouverites have a higher sense of belonging, but a lower sense of safety and trust in their neighbourhoods (My Health My Community Survey). Historic and current impacts of settler colonialism, anti-Indigenous racism and cultural assimilation or genocide, have resulted in disparities and access to culture, housing, employment and economic equity; however, we recognize that existing data does not fully capture the strength and resilience of urban Indigenous communities.²

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) is an umbrella organization serving 22 Indigenous service providers with policy development, advocacy and organizational leadership for urban Indigenous peoples. On January 19th, 2016, MVAEC and the City signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (see Appendix A). The purpose of the MOU is to prioritize engagement, policy, and investments that enhance opportunities to meet the unique needs of urban Indigenous communities in Vancouver. An Executive Advisory Committee serves as the principal structure for implementing the MOU. The Advisory Committee is co-chaired by MVAEC CEO, Kevin Barlow and City Manager, Sadhu Johnston and includes MVAEC President (Susan Tatoosh) with other board and roundtable co-chairs as members. Under myself as General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services, the City's Social Policy staff steward the MVAEC relationship and MOU implementation across the City's business units, supported by the Indigenous Relations Manager.

In 2018, MVAEC launched a service delivery subsidiary – Metro Vancouver Indigenous Services Society – to provide cultural services for urban Indigenous residents. MVAEC also hosts the Urban Indigenous Opioid Task Force, a coordinated, culturally-centered response to the overdose crisis and the City participates as a member. MVAEC also has a seat on the City of Vancouver's Urban Indigenous People's Advisory Committee (UIPAC) who advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for urban Indigenous Peoples and the implementation of the City of Reconciliation Framework.

DISCUSSION

A. Urban Indigenous Strategy

MVAEC's key priority is developing an Urban Indigenous Strategy (UIS), envisioned to articulate the unique needs of urban Indigenous peoples on topics related to wellbeing such as housing, homelessness, poverty, childcare, education, training and employment within an integrated framework. The UIS is a key step towards better self-determination, as it would express a clear, proactive, vision that will stand in contrast to reactive initiatives that follow government-imposed priorities. MVAEC's 5-Year Strategic Plan outlines the importance of an Urban Indigenous Strategy, including key areas of focus established through a Collective Impact process (See Attachment B). Furthermore, the UIS is an opportunity to align MVAEC with the priorities of Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and the City of Vancouver, including the emergence of projects along Hastings Street and the desire of MVAEC to focus wellness, reconciliation and wellbeing along the Hastings Corridor. MVAEC also interested in engaging MST and also has relationships with the Métis.

² 2019 City of Vancouver Homeless Count indicates 39% of homeless population counted is Indigenous – 41% of Indigenous people have income below Canada's official poverty line, compared to 20% of the total population (StatsCan). School completion rate for Indigenous students is 56%, compared to 90% of the overall student population (BC Ministry of Education) and 57% of Indigenous people age 25-64 have a post-secondary certificate, compared to 73% of the total population age 25-64 (StatsCan).

B. Senior Government Partnerships

1. UIS Potential Funding & Approach - Federal, Provincial & Regional Updates:

Over the past six months, MVAEC actively met with federal and provincial government leaders, provincial urban Indigenous coalitions and urban Indigenous staff across the country to align shared priorities and explore funding and governance models. Provincially, MVAEC has been in discussion with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) to discuss the opportunity for a tri-partite agreement. MVAEC's discussions with the Federal Liberal leadership (Indigenous Caucus Chair and Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indigenous Services) and Social Services, Policy and Family Violence Secretariat has resulted in a federal application for \$60,000, towards a BC coalition-based UIS, in partnership with coalitions in Victoria, Surrey and Prince George.

2. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Recent provincial legislation on implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) will set out a process to align BC's laws with UNDRIP. The Province has been working with the First Nations Leadership Council (BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs), directed by First Nations Chiefs of BC to develop the legislation. MVAEC has had early discussions with the Province on processes that will include urban Indigenous residents in UNDRIP implementation given that MVAEC is not a provincial organization and not been engaged in the development phases of this approach. MVAEC is also looking to the City of Vancouver to be a leader in municipal implementation of UNDRIP, endorsed by City of Vancouver in 2013.

3. Early Learning Childcare Partnership (MCFD)

In 2019, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funded MVAEC to implement an Early Learning Childcare project partnership through the City of Vancouver, with funding to include an additional partnership with Native Education College to convene other colleges and educators offering Early Learning training certification, and to do hiring and sourcing for programs and job training.

C. Housing & Homelessness

Housing and homelessness is a key priority for MVAEC as part of its Collective Impact work and pre-work towards the Urban Indigenous Strategy. On Jan 19, 2016, MVAEC presented: *Towards an Urban Aboriginal Housing and Wellness Strategy* with a call for 1,500 units in region within the immediate term, and the development of a longer-term strategy. The City responded to the Strategy identifying four priority Indigenous housing and integrated service development sites.³ In 2019, an MVAEC Project Lead on Homelessness was created and co-funded in partnership by MVAEC through the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, City of Vancouver, BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) via Vancouver Community Foundation/Homefront and Lu'ma Native Housing.

³ Various links to the corresponding presentations, reports, video of presentation can be found in item 2 of the agenda here: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20160119/regu20160119ag.html>

D. Poverty Reduction/Indigenous Wellbeing & Equity Framework

MVAEC continues to play a strategic leadership role in pivoting the City's poverty reduction plan away from a deficit based lens, and towards a more culturally appropriate and holistic approach informed by the Indigenous Human Development concept and best practices from Maori colleagues in New Zealand and the City of Auckland. MVAEC is also a member of the Equity Framework External Advisory (3 appointed members). These learnings from best will inform the Equity Framework and Healthy City Strategy renewal.

E. MVAEC & Urban Indigenous Engagement in City Plan

MVAEC will be a key partner for urban Indigenous engagement during City Plan. Staff have identified \$100,000 annually to provide MVAEC with a staff liaison resource to engage both MVAEC membership and the broader urban Indigenous resident populations in City Plan.

NEXT STEPS

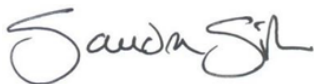
- Staff will be requesting approximately \$250,000 in the 2020 budget to support the advancement of several Urban Indigenous Strategy-related pieces of work.
- Staff will be proposing a process to bring MVAEC and the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations together to discuss ways of identifying and achieving shared needs and aspirations, and to develop appropriate protocols for "standing people up in their strengths" and supporting all people living on unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh land.
- MVAEC will be funded by the City to engage a diverse range of urban Indigenous residents in City Plan using culturally appropriate, relationship-focused engagement strategies. MVAEC and MST relationships will be integral to the success of City Plan.
- On Nov 26th, MVAEC will be hosting a Data Strategy Workshop with key partners.

FINAL REMARKS

MVAEC is the leading voice for a diversity of urban Indigenous residents in Vancouver, continuing to demonstrate local, regional, provincial and national leadership. Staff's 2020 budget submission reflects ongoing commitment to the implementation of the MOU, including MVAEC's prioritization of an Urban Indigenous Strategy. In addition, MVAEC members continue to lead innovative and much-needed culturally-appropriate services to Indigenous residents in Vancouver. MVAEC's 5-Year Strategic Plan outlines goals and priorities for the organization and offers several opportunities for alignment with the City's corporate priorities.

If there are any further questions or Councillors need for additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca.

Sincerely,



Sandra Singh, General Manager
Arts, Culture and Community Services
604.871.6858 | sandra.singh@vancouver.ca



Memorandum of Understanding

This agreement dated for reference the January 19th, 2016

BETWEEN: Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council, a society incorporated under the Society Act under No. S- 0055954 ("MVAEC")

AND:

City of Vancouver (the "City")

BACKGROUND:

- A. The City is embracing reconciliation through a long-term effort that seeks to heal from the past and build new relationships between Aboriginal peoples and all Vancouverites, built on a foundation of openness, dignity, understanding and hope. Through the process of being a City of Reconciliation we have the promise of building a common future, a future in which all of Vancouver's children – no matter what their cultural background – have an equal opportunity to achieve their dreams and contribute to the common aspiration for a just and sustainable world.
- B. Aboriginal communities have valuable knowledge and experience that will benefit any group looking to cultivate healthy communities, address Aboriginal issues, and in enhancing opportunities for Aboriginal people to achieve their aspirations. MVAEC and the City also recognize that Aboriginal people who live in the city are a significant social, political and economic presence in Vancouver today.
- C. MVAEC and the City each have responsibilities towards their residents and members, and acknowledge that the interests of their communities are best served by working together in the spirit of cooperation.
- D. MVAEC and the City recognize that urban Aboriginal peoples is not an identity in itself, and that the Aboriginal population who live in the city are First Nations, Métis, and Inuit who come from diverse communities and cultures.

NOW THEREFORE MVAEC and the City of Vancouver enter into this Memorandum of Understanding with the intention and desire to establish a cooperative relationship for the purpose of sharing information, improving communications, addressing specific concerns, enhancing opportunities, setting a solid foundation for future planning and raising awareness and better understanding of the unique needs and values of the urban Aboriginal community in Vancouver.

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to enter into an arrangement between MVAEC and the City with respect to establishing and maintaining a long-term cooperative relationship through effective communication; and
- 1.2 To establish an Advisory Committee comprised of City staff representatives and MVAEC members to foster the development of clause 1.1.

2.0 PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

The Parties agree that MVAEC and the City will:

- 2.1 Seek the wisdom and guidance of urban Aboriginal people on matters that affect them most.
- 2.2 Work collaboratively to identify common issues, better align services and combine resources to maximize community investments.
- 2.3 Work together to explore ways to strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal organizations and associations to plan, lead and deliver initiatives for local urban Aboriginal communities.
- 2.4 Work together to identify issues and priorities and develop partnerships and well-supported plans of action to achieve needed change.
- 2.5 Engage Aboriginal communities in the City's decision making process to removing barriers to civic participation and to increase the representation and role of Aboriginal people on municipal boards and committees and as staff.
- 2.6 Meet with the General Manager of Community Services three times a year to promote and encourage open and constructive dialogue based on mutual trust, honesty, respect and understanding.
- 2.7 Work cooperatively to ensure that both Parties have a full understanding of each other's capacities, roles, responsibilities and current projects.
- 2.8 Support the work of the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee by appointing one member of MVAEC to UAPAC for every Committee term.

3.0 KEY JOINT INTERESTS

The Parties agree that MVAEC and the City will work together on Healthy City Strategy Goals that align with MVAEC's interests in:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Arts and Culture
- Children, Youth and Families
- Economic Development
- Health, Safety and Wellness
- Capacity Building
- Shared Service Delivery
- Sustainable Communities
- Connection and engagement

4.0 COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 MVAEC and the City recognize the success of a relationship is predicated upon open and transparent communication.
- 4.2 It is the intention of MVAEC and the City to pursue opportunities for collaborative decision making and establishing cooperative action plans on common areas of interest

4.3 MVAEC and the City acknowledge and recognize that communication and information sharing for the interests set out in 4.1 may be subject to Federal and Provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation. However, whenever the parties are contemplating the sharing or exchange of confidential information they will enter into a separate non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement since this Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding agreement.

5.0 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 An Advisory Committee will be established as the principal structure for implementing this arrangement.
- 5.2 Each party will name two representatives to the Committee and one alternate.
- 5.3 The Committee will meet bi-annually, or as required, with the first meeting to take place within sixty (60) days of signing this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 5.4 The duties and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee are:
 - Identify and address high priority community needs in order to help reduce disparities in standards of living and quality of life.
 - To establish technical committees and/or working groups to undertake specific projects as required.
 - To identify and secure financial and other resources required to undertake specific projects.
 - Share information of mutual interest.
 - Respond to unique needs and values of the urban Aboriginal community.

6.0 TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- 6.1 MVAEC and the City agree that this Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon each party signing this document and delivering a signed copy to the other.
- 6.2 This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into as a formal recognition of the each Party's good faith intent to implement the terms of this instrument and work together as set out above. However, for certainty, this document is not intended to be legally binding and does not create any legal rights or obligations as between the parties.
- 6.3 MVAEC and the City agree that the Memorandum of Understanding is a living document and may be subject to revision from time to time by mutual consent. The revision must be agreed to in writing and signed by both Parties.

MVAEC and the City have signified their agreement to carry out the intent of this Memorandum of Understanding by signing and delivering this to the other as of the day and year first written above.

METRO VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, by its authorized signatory:

Name/Title: David Eddy, Vice Chair

Signature: David Eddy

CITY OF VANCOUVER, by its authorized signatory:

Name/Title: Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

Signature: Sadhu Johnston

5 Year MVAEC Strategic Plan At-a-Glance (2019-2024)



Board of Directors

Vision: A strong, healthy, culturally vibrant urban Indigenous community in Metro Vancouver.

Mission: Strategically lead, plan and support programs and services for our members.

CEO



Core Value = Witnessing = Comprehensive Policy Recommendations

Representation

- Examples:**
- Civic processes
 - National issues

Capacity Building

- Examples:**
- Cultural Competency
 - Opioid Response

- Examples:**
- Research
 - Data Needs

- Examples:**
- Urban Indigenous Strategy
 - Community Funding Entity

Objectives based on our comprehensive policy recommendations and other sources of input will be developed to support these 5 function areas.

Think & Lead Pillar #1:
Indigenous Collective

Think & Lead Pillar #2:
Indigenous Psychology of Poverty

Think & Lead Pillar #3:
Potlatch Economy