



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, April 4 2022 at 12:11 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 12:11 p.m. in Council Chamber, City Hall. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Deputy Mayor S. Smith,
Councillor N. Konge,
Councillor S. Morgan,
Councillor J. Morse, (via teleconference)
Councillor S. Payne,
Councillor R. Silverio, and
Councillor R. Williams.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
D. M. Gillard,
C. Greencorn,
C. Hand,
J. Hunt-Poitras,
K. Thistle,
C. White,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Deputy Mayor Smith read the Opening Statement.
2.	(For Information Only) There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.
3.	Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to present resolutions to the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (“NWTAC”) for adoption at its annual general meeting (“AGM”).



Committee noted that the NWTAC has issued its Call for Resolutions. These resolutions are intended to address a topic or issue of concern that one or more communities feel requires action by other levels of government. Resolutions that are adopted serve to guide the NWTAC when it prioritizes its goals and objectives and subsequently allocates its limited resources.

The deadline for submissions is May 6, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. for the AGM which will take place in Hay River from June 9-11, 2022.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

- Goal #1 Growing and Diversifying our Economy
- Goal #2 Delivering Efficient and Accountable Government
- Goal #3 Ensuring a High Quality of Life for All, Including Future Generations.

Procedural

The following Resolutions have been submitted by the City of Yellowknife and were adopted or Reaffirmed by NWTAC in 2021:

2021-02	Property Tax Forgiveness When Property is Destroyed by Fire
2021-03	Accessibility Legislation
RA-21-20-16	<i>Building Code Act</i>
RA-21-20-17	Presumptive Coverage for Work-Related Psychological
RA-21-20-18	Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms and Costs in the NWT
RA-21-20-19	Support for Federal Mandate
RA-21-20-20	Review and amendment of the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i> , R.S.N.W.T. 1988, c.50 (Supp.), as amended
RA-21-19-01	Taltson Hydro Project
RA-21-19-02	Duty to Consult
RA-21-19-03	Alternative Voting Methods
RA-21-19-04	Cannabis Revenue Sharing
RA-21-19-05	Post-Secondary Education – Transformation
RA-21-18-10	Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services
RA-21-18-11	<i>Fire Prevention Act</i>
RA-21-18-12	Transfer of Lands to Community Governments
RA-21-13-02	Review and Amendment of the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i>

Departmental Consultation

All departments have been consulted prior to the drafting of the resolutions for Council's consideration and no new Resolutions are being proposed at this time.

Committee noted that resolutions submitted to the NWTAC will be reviewed by its Resolutions and Policies Committee who makes recommendations regarding the resolutions to the membership at their AGM. Resolutions pertain to issues of concern for one or more community governments and seek action from other levels of government. Resolutions endorsed by the Membership are an effective way to bring important issues to the



attention of Territorial or Federal Governments or national agencies such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Committee recommends that all Resolutions previously submitted to the NWTAC by the City of Yellowknife be reaffirmed.

MOVE APPROVAL

4. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to approve the draft 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan for public review and engagement.**

Committee noted that Council identified Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples as one of its core values in Council's 2019-2022 Goals and Objectives. Prior to that, Council had adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2015 as part of its response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action (Motion #0324-15). Preparing a Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan has been a continuation of this work.

During 2019, the City released its document *Reconciliation: Starting the Conversation* as a means to engage with Indigenous peoples, organizations, governments and the community at large, seeking input through coffee breaks, online and written comments, one-on-one engagement and community gatherings. A broad range of comments on reconciliation were gathered and, along with consideration of best practices for municipal governments, have informed the development of the City's Reconciliation Framework and 2021 Action Plan which Council approved on June 28, 2021 for public release and engagement (Council Motion 119-21).

The Framework is a high level policy document which lays out the City's broad goals and principles for reconciliation. The Action Plan is intended to be a living document, updated regularly, providing concrete actions on the journey towards reconciliation. Subsequent to Council approval in June 2021, the Framework and 2021 Action Plan were sent to a broad range of partners and stakeholders across the NWT for review, input and comments.

Since 2021, the YKDFN has indicated its interest in working with the City to advance reconciliation. The City continues to engage with YKDFN on an ongoing basis.

COVID has impacted the City's ability to move forward with a number of proposed actions to advance reconciliation. As we shift from pandemic to endemic mode in 2022, the City intends to move forward in a safe and COVID-compliant manner to advance a range of actions using funds allocated by Council in Budget 2022 toward reconciliation.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

2019 – 2022 City of Yellowknife Councils Goals and Objectives

Value – Reconciliation: The City is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples



GOAL #3: Ensuring a high quality of life for all, including future generations

Council Motion #0324-15:

That Council adopt the following recommendations on how to move forward on the actions recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action:

- Article 43: Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Article 47: The Mayor corresponds with the GNWT to ensure that any and all laws that rely upon the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius are repudiated.
- Article 57: That funding be identified for the provision of skill-based training for all City staff to undergo that will provide a learning experience on the history of Aboriginal peoples relating to residential schools; UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Treaties and Aboriginal Rights, Indigenous Law; and, Aboriginal–Crown relations. Articles 75, 76,
- and 77: The Mayor correspond with the GNWT and School Boards encouraging them to ensure that they provide any and all information pertaining to identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries/sites where residential school children are buried, and for them to provide all known records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Council Motion #0167-19

That:

1. Council direct Administration to undertake community engagement, using the “Reconciliation: Starting the Conversation” document, as the first step in developing a reconciliation action plan.
2. Council direct Administration to undertake community engagement through various means including:
 - i. Attending meetings/assemblies hosted by Indigenous governments and organizations;
 - ii. Proactive outreach to Indigenous governments and organizations;
 - iii. Hosting gatherings in Yellowknife over the summer; and
 - iv. Providing opportunities for online and written submissions.

Council Motion # 0060-20

That Council direct Administration to initiate the following actions, using the \$50,000 allocated within Budget 2020, for the purpose of continuing to advance reconciliation until the Reconciliation Plan is prepared in draft for consideration and Indigenous partner/public consultation:

- Elder in Residence
- Intercultural & Placemaking Plan



- MOU with YKDFN
- Paint North
- Wilideh language on Stop signs
- Community Blanket Exercise

Council Motion # 0063-21

That:

1. The Community Energy Plan Committee be dissolved and that the City conduct a Community Roundtable annually to report on implementation of the City's Community Energy Plan;
2. The University Post Secondary Advisory Committee be dissolved and that the City support a network of stakeholders;
3. The Terms of Reference for the Heritage Committee be amended to change frequency of meetings;
4. The City conduct a Community Roundtable annually with respect to Reconciliation; and
5. Council direct Administration to draft and bring forward a Framework for Public Engagement that utilizes various approaches to engagement.

Council Motion #119-21

That Council direct Administration to release the Reconciliation Framework and Reconciliation Action Plan for broad public engagement and feedback from Indigenous partners, governments and members of the public.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

Reconciliation Framework

<https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/livinghere/resources/Reconciliation/Reconciliation-Framework.pdf>

Engagement with Indigenous Partners

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife and the YKDFN commits us to principles of cooperation operating within a government to government context. Engaging proactively with YKDFN on reconciliation actions supports and strengthens the relationship between our two governments and contributes to the foundation of mutual trust and respect. City Administration has connected with YKDFN Administration in early 2022 to seek to forge a pathway for ongoing engagement. Connection with NSMA has been less structured but ongoing communication remains an important priority.

Indigenous Relations

The Reconciliation Action Plan is intended to be a living document that will be iterative and evolving, based on ongoing input from Indigenous governments, organizations, businesses, and all people who call Yellowknife and the surrounding area home. While the priority for



engagement is with the two Indigenous stakeholders whose traditional lands the City exists upon – YKDFN and NSMA - broader engagement with NWT and northern Indigenous governments and organizations is an important step in reconciliation.

Municipal Best Practices

Many municipalities across the country are seeking to advance reconciliation within their respective contexts, and the City monitors these communities and their experiences for inspiration and best practices. While these examples are helpful and can inspire ideas, the City seeks to advance actions that reflect the specific context of our community and territory, and the cultures and experiences of the Indigenous peoples who are in Yellowknife.

Committee noted that seeking to engage with partner Indigenous governments such as YKDFN is a key part of the foundation of reconciliation and will ensure that the proposed Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan can be vetted respectfully prior to seeking broader engagement and feedback with Indigenous and non-Indigenous Yellowknifers.

Committee recommends that Council approve the draft 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan for public review and engagement.

MOVE APPROVAL

(For Information Only)

5. Councillor Silverio moved,
Councillor Payne seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 12:29 p.m. to discuss a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

(For Information Only)

7. Councillor Payne moved,
Councillor Williams seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 12:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Business arising from the in camera session.

8. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.**

Committee noted that the term of office for representatives from an organization serving Persons with Disabilities and a representative from a youth serving organizations, including non-government Child Welfare agencies will expire on April 14, 2022. The City has advertised vacancies on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Council Goal #2 Delivering efficient and accountable government.

Motion #0459-96, as amended by #0460-96, #0462-96 and #0273-09:

"The following policy be adopted with respect to appointments to municipal boards and committees:

- i) The maximum consecutive years that an individual may serve on any one board or committee is six.
- ii) Individuals who have served the maximum six-year period on one municipal board or committee shall be eligible to be appointed to another board or committee.
- iii) No individual shall be precluded from serving concurrent terms on more than one municipal board or committee.
- iv) Notwithstanding that an individual appointee has served less than six years on a particular board or committee, Council may, after the expiration of the first or subsequent terms of that appointee, advertise for applicants to fill a vacancy on that board or committee.
- v) Notwithstanding clause (i.) of this policy, should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, the six year maximum limitation may, at the discretion of City Council, be waived.
- vi) Should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, City Council may appoint a member of the public at their discretion.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended.

Legislation

Section 122 of Council Procedures By-law No. 4975 states:

Special Committees of Council

120. Where Council deems it necessary to establish a special committee to investigate and consider any matter, Council shall:

- (1) name the committee;
- (2) establish terms of reference;
- (3) appoint members to it;
- (4) establish the term of appointment of members;



- (5) establish requirements for reporting to Council or a standing committee; and
- (6) allocate any necessary budget or other resources to it.

Procedural Considerations

All appointments to Special Committees must be approved by Council. The composition of the Committee was structured so that various segments of the community are represented.

Committee noted that the Committee members will assist the City in an advisory capacity regarding homelessness issues within the municipal boundaries of the City of Yellowknife. Appointing a full complement of Members will ensure that the work of the committee is completed in a timely fashion.

Committee recommends that Council appoint Denise McKee, a representative from an organization serving Persons with Disabilities, and Hawa Dumbuya-Sesay, a representative from a youth serving organizations, including non-government Child Welfare agencies to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) commencing April 12, 2022 and ending April 11, 2024.

MOVE APPROVAL

9. The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.