



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 12:05 p.m.**

Report of a meeting held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Deputy Mayor S. Arden-Smith,  
Councillor G. Cochrane, (12:21 p.m.)  
Councillor R. Fequet,  
Councillor B. Hendriksen,  
Councillor C. McGurk,  
Councillor T. McLennan,  
Councillor S. Payne, and  
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,  
C. Caljouw,  
C. Greencorn,  
C. MacLean,  
T. Setta,  
K. Thistle,  
G. White,  
S. Woodward, and  
S. Jovic.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Deputy Mayor Arden-Smith read the Opening Statement.
2.	(For Information Only) There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.
3.	<b>Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to approve the 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.</b>



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). Council is currently finalizing its Strategic Goals and Objectives and reconciliation remains a key priority that will inform the City's actions in future years.

The City developed the Reconciliation Framework<sup>1</sup> and the Reconciliation Action Plan<sup>2</sup> as part its commitment to reconciliation. The Framework is a high level policy document which lays out the City's broad goals and principles for reconciliation. The Action Plan is a living document that is updated regularly, providing concrete actions on the City's journey towards reconciliation. Subsequent to Council approval in April 2022, the Framework and Draft 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan were sent to a broad range of partners and stakeholders across the NWT for review, input and comments. The City also hosted a public gathering on August 31, 2022 to provide residents with the opportunity to engage on reconciliation in Yellowknife.

The information and ideas received throughout the engagement process have been used to inform the proposed actions contained in the 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.

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 GWNT 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

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/resources/Reconciliation/Reconciliation-Framework.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/resources/Reconciliation/Reconciliation-Action-Plan.pdf>



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.

Council Motion #060-22

That Council approve the draft 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan for public review and engagement.

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

1. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*; and
2. Reconciliation Framework.

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. Ongoing communications with North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) remains an important priority.

Indigenous Relations

The Reconciliation Action Plan is a living document that will evolve, based on ongoing input from Indigenous peoples, 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.

#### Community Engagement

Community members were provided with several options to share feedback and ideas through various forms of engagement. The City invited Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to *Walking Together – Reconciliation Gathering 2022* on August 31, 2022. The intent of the gathering was to: provide a forum for all interested residents and partners to engage on reconciliation in Yellowknife; seek ideas for actions within the City's mandate that the City can undertake; and welcome all ideas on reconciliation and forward those beyond the City's mandate to respective leads/governments/partners for consideration, advocacy and/or follow up.

For those unable to attend the gathering, feedback could be provided through an online survey. The City also continually accepts feedback via a dedicated email address [reconciliation@yellowknife.ca](mailto:reconciliation@yellowknife.ca).

#### Next Steps

The City will continue to assess and implement actions within its mandate that are identified through engagement. For those items identified during engagement that are outside the City's scope and mandate, the City will ensure that the responsible levels of governments are made aware of the suggestions and ideas raised.

Committee noted that seeking to engage is a key part of the foundation of reconciliation and will ensure that the Draft 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan is responsive.

**Committee recommends that Council approve the 2023 Reconciliation Action Plan.**

#### **MOVE APPROVAL**

(For Information Only)

4. Councillor Fequet moved,  
Councillor Hendriksen seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 12:32 p.m. to discuss a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee and a memorandum whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



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- (For Information Only)
5. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- (For Information Only)
6. Committee discussed a memorandum whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.
- (For Information Only)
7. Councillor McGurk moved,  
Councillor Cochrane seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 12:51 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Business arising from the in camera session.

- (For Information Only)
8. Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Committee noted that on August 23, 2021 Council adopted the Accessibility Policy pursuant to Motion #0134-21. As part of that motion, Council also directed Administration to “create an Accessibility Advisory Committee” and “to engage key stakeholders and the public to refine the Draft Accessibility Policy.”

On October 4, 2021 Council accepted for information a Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the AAC is to provide policy recommendations, expertise and experiential knowledge to Council on accessibility issues with the aim of making City of Yellowknife programs, services, infrastructure and facilities more accessible for all by:

- (i) Identifying barriers for persons with disabilities created by current City of Yellowknife infrastructure;
- (ii) Making recommendations as to how to remove these barriers;
- (iii) Establishing criteria by which barrier removal can be prioritized and the allocating of funding can be determined; and
- (iv) Working with the City of Yellowknife to draft policies and procedures to prevent the creation of barriers in the future.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will be an invaluable resource to Administration as the City continues to move towards a more equitable and inclusive city.



The Committee will be comprised of up to seven (7) members of the public that reflect a diversity of the types of accessibility issues faced by members of the community. Membership will be limited to people with lived experience or accessibility challenges and may also include individuals representing a broad range of under-served and equity seeking groups such as, but not limited to:

- i. Indigenous peoples;
- ii. Faith based groups;
- iii. LGBTQ2S+;
- iv. Newcomers, new Canadians;
- v. Persons living in poverty;
- vi. Racialized people, people of diverse ethnic or cultural origin;
- vii. Seniors;
- viii. Women;

It is the practice of the City of Yellowknife to advertise all vacancies for boards and committees. The City has advertised the vacancies on the Accessibility Advisory Committee since the committee was established in 2021 in the Capital Update, the City's website and social media sites. The City also sent over forty letters to community groups to advise of the AAC and fill the membership. The City will continue to advertise the remaining vacant positions.

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

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| Council Goal #2         | Delivering efficient and accountable government.  |
| Council Goal #3         | Ensuring a high quality of life for all, including future generations.  |
| Council Goal #4         | Driving strategic land development and growth opportunities.  |
| Council Motion #0245-18 | <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Adopt for information the Accessibility Audit as prepared by SPH Planning and Consulting and Dillon Consulting;</li><li>2. Direct Administration to develop an implementation plan in consultation with key stakeholder groups to address the identified projects; and</li><li>3. Direct Administration to identify key projects through the budgeting process.</li></ol> |
| Council Motion #0187-19 | <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Endorse the draft Accessibility Audit Implementation Strategy; and</li></ol>  |



2. Direct Administration to engage with the public and key stakeholders to review and provide input on the Implementation schedule.

Council Motion #0134-21:

That Council

1. Endorse the proposed Draft Accessibility Policy;
2. Direct Administration to create an Accessibility Advisory Committee; and
3. Direct Administration to engage key stakeholders and the public to refine the Draft Accessibility Policy.

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

1. Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended; and
2. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*.
3. *Accessibility Audit*;
4. *Accessibility Policy*; and
5. *Accessibility Audit Implementation Strategy*.

#### Legislation

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

Special Committees of Council

122. 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 reflect a diversity of the types of accessibility issues faced by members of the community.

Committee noted that the AAC will provide advice to the City on identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives, and facilities. Administration will work with members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive engagement strategy that ensures persons with disabilities are provided with a variety of ways and opportunities to provide feedback to the City in accordance with the Accessibility Policy.





Appointing a full complement of Members will ensure that the work of the committee is completed in a timely fashion.

In response to a question from the Committee, Administration undertook to notify stakeholders and other groups (eg. CNIB, Northern Mosaic Network, Seniors etc.) to let them know that the City is accepting applications to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee and to ask them to share this information with their membership in order to increase public representation on this Committee.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding a meeting honorarium for Committee Members, Administration undertook to provide a copy of George Cuff's Report on Agencies, Boards and Committees (ABC).

Committee recommended that Council appoint Riley Oldford, Cornelius Van Dyke, Denise McKee and Lynda Koe to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a two-year term commencing April 12, 2023, and ending April 11, 2025.

Committee noted that this matter will be discussed under New Business at this evening's Council Meeting.

(For Information Only)

9. Committee read a memorandum whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

Committee noted that there is a vacancy on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness for a representative from non-government Health organizations (including hospitals and other public institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addictions).

It is the practice of the City of Yellowknife to advertise all vacancies for boards and committees. The City has advertised a vacancy on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness in the Capital Update, the City's website and social media sites.

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 applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include: Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended.

#### Legislation

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

#### Special Committees of Council

122. 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 recommend that Council appoint Jason Brinson, a representative from non-government Health organizations (including hospitals and other public institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addictions) to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) for a two-year term commencing April 12, 2023, and ending April 11, 2025.



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Committee noted that this matter will be discussed under New Business at this evening's Council Meeting.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.