



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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NOTICE OF MOTION

Request for Notice of Motion, Pursuant to Sections 37 and 38, Council Procedure Bylaw No. 2715, 2009.

Introduced: Regular Council – October 23, 2017

From: Councillor Beth Burton-Krahn

Subject: Reconciliation Efforts in Partnership with both the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations

WHEREAS: in 2008 the Federal Government and the members of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as part of a comprehensive response to the abuses inflicted upon Indigenous Peoples through the residential school system;

AND WHEREAS: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report in December of 2015 along with 94 Calls to Action to further the possibilities of healing between parties (Indigenous Peoples and Settler) through acts of reconciliation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Township of Esquimalt explore the Calls to Action in partnership with both the Esquimalt First Nation and the Songhees First Nation in a dialogue of mutual respect so that the Township can honour the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in actions;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that out of the dialogue with both the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nation we can enact actions that truly foster healing based on actions that come out of that dialogue rather than any one act arbitrarily and unilaterally decided by the Township alone.

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE:

This is relevant to Council's Strategic Priority that we recognize the importance of, and will enhance relationships with our neighbours and other levels of government.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015 the Federal Government released the much anticipated Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report. This Report examined in often brutal and painful detail the traumatization of the Indigenous Peoples of what is called Turtle Island through the residential school system.

The study ended with 94 Calls to Action for governments to enact and move forward in order to further healing between Indigenous Peoples and Settlers.

Municipal governments play a crucial role in furthering the both the spirit and the actions embedded in the TRC. As the government 'closest to the people', municipal governments can engage directly with their First Nation neighbours to bring about actions that foster healing and change among all parties.

Such actions could include but would not be limited to - flying the flag of National Indigenous People's Day on June 21; honouring National Indigenous People's Day with a jointly hosted event in agreement with either and/or both the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations; ensuring education opportunities are made available for Township Staff in furthering their understanding of the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, etc.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has put together a document supporting municipalities to bring the 94 Calls to Action to life at the local government level (link: https://fcm.ca/Documents/tools/BCMC/Pathways_to_reconciliation_EN.pdf.) It is in that spirit that I bring forward this Notice of Motion for further discussion.