

## **Update on Walk for Reconciliation Community Partner Consultations**

**Date:** March 24, 2017

**To:** City Council

**From:** General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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At its meeting of February 7, the Aboriginal Affairs Committee considered a report on support for the Walk for Reconciliation - a major special event planned to be held in Toronto in September 2017, which will commemorate and reflect on a shared commitment to transform and renew relationships among Indigenous peoples and all communities across the country.

The Committee requested that the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the Director, Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights, report directly to City Council with additional information on outreach strategies for the event, and the results of consultations undertaken by event organizers with local community partners and Aboriginal organizations.

Reconciliation Canada - the Indigenous-led non-profit organization producing the event - has begun to engage with Toronto-based partners, but more time is needed to complete the consultation process. Staff from Economic Development and Culture and Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights will continue to advise Reconciliation Canada on their consultation plan and other event logistics in the coming weeks.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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There is no financial impact associated with the adoption of this report. Staff hours required to work with Reconciliation Canada on their consultation plan and event logistics are included within the City's 2017 Approved Operating Budget.

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## DECISION HISTORY

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In December 2016, City Council requested that the Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and other City Divisions and Agencies as appropriate, support Reconciliation Canada's efforts to host a Reconciliation Walk on September 24, 2017, in Toronto, including any in kind support as necessary.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX20.20>

At its meeting of February 7, 2017, the Aboriginal Affairs Committee recommended that the Executive Committee forward a report on supporting the Walk for Reconciliation directly to City Council without recommendation, and direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights, to report directly to City Council with more information on the event.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.AA7.5>

## COMMENTS

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The Walk for Reconciliation is a four-kilometre walk through Toronto's downtown core that is intended to transform and renew relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. Organizers have conceived of the Walk as a means of healing in light of the legacy of residential schools, and as a moment of reflection on a shared commitment to move forward together. The event is expected to draw 50,000 participants, and will also include cultural performances, speeches, and educational programming.

Reconciliation Canada has begun to engage in a dialogue with local partners and Indigenous organizations about its plans for the Walk for Reconciliation, and legacy opportunities for Toronto. To date, Reconciliation Canada has met with representatives of the Chiefs of Ontario, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, and Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre to discuss the Walk for Reconciliation, and planned outreach strategies. Reconciliation Canada has also begun to reach out to other community cultural organizations, including the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, Ve'ahavta, and the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants.

Consultations are not yet complete at this time. In the coming weeks, Reconciliation Canada plans to continue discussions with local Aboriginal and community organizations to gather input and advice on event planning, protocol, outreach, and legacy opportunities. Reconciliation Canada is also forming a Toronto-based local advisory committee to provide expertise on programming and community engagement. City staff will continue to advise Reconciliation Canada on their consultation and engagement in the weeks ahead.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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