

Report to Council

Report Title:	Brockton Reconciliation Efforts		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)		
Department:	Clerk's		
Date:	June 18, 2024		
Report Number:	CLK2024-11	File Number:	C11CL
Attachments:	N/A		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CLK2024-11 – Brockton Reconciliation Efforts, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The Municipality of Brockton has supported the recommendations and Calls to Action published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, including passing a motion in September 2021 recognizing September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) and further approving implementing additional Calls to Action specifically within the Municipality of Brockton, including:

- Raising the Every Child Matters flag at half-mast for entire month of September (after Labour Day)
- Waiving any fees for Commissioning name change documents for residential school survivors
- Encouraging staff to wear an orange shirt yearly for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) on September 30th
- Municipal employees participated in online training on September 30, 2021 to recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Encouraging staff to continue to review and identify any barriers for participation by aboriginal residents and facility users
- Amending the Brockton Heritage Committee's Terms of Reference to include researching and highlighting the history and legacy of Indigenous and Métis people in Brockton
- Considering highlighting the stories of aboriginal Canadians in sport when preparing recreational pamphlets or banners, where appropriate to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

In August 2022, the Municipality adopted an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement which is read prior to Council and Committee Meetings.

The Municipality has also provided financial and advertising support to the Truth and Reconciliation Brockton group over the last few years who have hosted community vigils for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and a Saugeen River Blessing, as well as providing free-of-charge rental space at the Walkerton Library for the group's monthly meetings and planning sessions for these events. Further, the Municipality has approved funds through the Early Investment in Education and Skills (EIES) program towards yearly traditional knowledge training.

The Municipality consulted with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) on the development of the lands included in the MZO application for the East Ridge Business Park, as well as participate in regular consultation with SON on all planning applications, including the preparation of archeological assessments.

The Municipality has also committed to consulting with SON on ways that we can better recognize SON's historic involvement along the Saugeen River, which may include additional plaques, signage or future further development of the open spaces along the river.

Staff are also expanding the partnership with the Brockton Regional Training Centre at the Walkerton Fire Hall to offer priority status and reduced fees to firefighters from SON wishing to participate in courses and obtain additional qualifications.

Analysis:

The Municipality is planning ahead for how we can continue to support our Indigenous communities and recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2024. The membership of the Truth and Reconciliation Brockton group has changed over the past few months, and staff are proposing that the Municipality could implement the following projects or tasks for 2024 and in future years:

Training Course

Offer an online or other method of training course for residents to become more aware of Indigenous culture, fostering inclusivity while learning about the history and legacy of residential schools. A course could be offered through an organization such as The Canadian Diversity Initiative, with costs to be covered through the NWMO Early Investment in Education and Skills funding. Municipal staff completed a course of this kind in 2021, and the proposal would be to build on this awareness by offering a course on a first-come-first serve free of charge basis to residents and/or local businesses.

Heritage Research

The Brockton Heritage Committee's mandate was amended to include researching the history and legacy of Indigenous and Metis people in Brockton. The Committee could prioritize this project and share the information our community, publicizing the research on our website, social media, and featured on the Heritage Storymap GIS application software with Brockton's other heritage properties.

Recognition Plaques

The Brockton Heritage Committee could also formalize their research by displaying plaques recognizing properties of Indigenous significance in our community, similar to the Heritage Designated Properties, and heritage landmarks such as the Truax Dam and Bridge 11 which received plaques describing their historic significance.

Reading List

The Municipality could partner with the Bruce County Public Library as well as the Brockton Heritage Committee to create a reading list for residents of books published by Indigenous authors, or other books of Indigenous interest encouraging the public to continue educating themselves with either non-fiction or fictional books.

Child Care Programming

The Brockton Child Care Centre could read Indigenous stories and books to the children, and seek to arrange a visit from an Indigenous dancer to cultivate an educational and engaging experience with our young people. These programs could also be offered with our Parks and Recreation Department as well, possibly during Summer Camps.

Pow Wows

The Municipality could promote and encourage residents attending our neighbouring Indigenous communities Pow Wow events, listing the events in our Visitor's Guide, Event rack cards, website and social media to encourage increased attendance and education.

Reconciliation Crosswalk

Brockton Council had expressed support for the County of Bruce incorporating a reconciliation crosswalk depending on the reconstruction of certain intersections. Municipal staff will continue to keep this in mind when having conversations with the County of Bruce.

County of Bruce Reconciliation Action Plan

Mayor Peabody, in his capacity as both Warden for the County of Bruce and Brockton Mayor, has met with members from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation to consult with them about the development of the County's Reconciliation Action Plan. The Municipality of Brockton will monitor the adoption of this Plan to identify actions and initiatives that can be undertaken at the local level.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |

- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance

N/A

Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer