

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) dated 3 of July, 2018, and authorized by By-law No. 2018-162 of the City of St. Catharines.

BETWEEN:

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES  
(hereinafter called the "City")

- and -

NIAGARA REGIONAL NATIVE CENTRE  
(hereinafter called the "NRNC")

(the City and NRNC are collectively hereinafter called the "partners")

WHEREAS all levels of government of Canada are responsible for improving relations with and understanding with First Nations peoples of Canada;

WHEREAS municipalities have been called to advance the process of Canadian reconciliation by the Calls to Action published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada;

WHEREAS the history with First Nations in the Region of Niagara forms a vital part of the region's and the City's cultural fabric, heritage and future;

WHEREAS the City commemorated Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> year with a focus on renewed relations with Indigenous peoples with the inaugural Celebration of Nations and the Nurturing Our Roots pow wow, creating new opportunities for cultural experiences and shared learning;

WHEREAS it is the NRNC's mission to promote the culture, interests, and native leadership of Aboriginal peoples in the community and to provide programs to alleviate and minimize adverse social and economic conditions encountered by Indigenous people;

WHEREAS the partners have expressed a desire to share cross-cultural learning and experiences in the spirit of reconciliation;

THEREFORE the partners wish to strengthen engagement and consultation efforts and, to this end, agree to the following provisions:

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to promote co-operation and consultation between the partners by:

- Establishing the NRNC as the City's principal advisory body on Indigenous matters;
- Outlining areas where the partners will engage in collaborative consultation; and
- Strengthening education, training and cultural competency of City staff and elected officials.

### 2. ESTABLISHMENT

This MOU formally establishes the NRNC as the principal advisory body to the City in relation to Indigenous matters and advancing Canadian reconciliation as set out in the Calls to Action published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

The City commits to undertaking consultation with the NRNC in the following areas:

- Cultural interpretation;
- Implementation of the Calls to Action published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada;
- Events and activities involving or featuring Aboriginal culture;
- Education and training of City staff and elected officials on Aboriginal issues;
- Provision of municipal services and programs as identified to impact Aboriginal peoples; and
- Development of new and review of existing City policies, procedures, processes, and by-laws as identified to impact Aboriginal peoples.

In return, the NRNC commits to providing advice and guidance to the City regarding the above-referred to areas and as the City may request.

### **4. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND PROVIDING SUPPORT**

The partners commit to the following:

- Jointly developing and providing education programs and training for City staff and elected officials to promote competency, understanding and sensitivity of Aboriginal issues;
- Building on existing relationships and processes to strengthen mechanisms for consultative engagement;
- Exchanging experiences, ideas and best practices which will contribute to innovative approaches and development of tools to assist in consultations and decision-making;
- Providing mutual support on strategic priorities;
- Identifying emerging Aboriginal issues and co-ordinating joint responses, where appropriate; and
- Establishing a process with the NRNC and Niagara Region planning department to consult local First Nations on candidate sites for development / redevelopment where there is potential of archeological significance including Indigenous settlements.

### **5. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The partners recognize the following are joint responsibilities of the partners:

- Providing leadership in support of the objectives of this MOU;
- Acting in good faith;
- Engaging in respectful, continuous, and collaborative dialogue even where positions of the partners diverge; and
- Facilitating communication and exchange of knowledge.

### **6. GENERAL MATTERS**

The partners will meet at least once annually to review opportunities to work together to advance each party's strategic objectives and may schedule additional meetings on an ad hoc basis and as needed for cultural events, consultation, information sharing or for any other reason to further the purpose of this MOU.

The partners will review this MOU annually and may make such amendment as the partners consider necessary.

Communication between the partners will be through the Office of the Mayor or the Office of the Chief Administration Officer or both offices for the City and through the Executive Director for the NRNC.

This MOU is not a commitment of funds by either party. Each party is responsible for the costs of its respective activities including costs associated with travel, meetings, and communications.

**7. TERMINATION**


This MOU may be terminated by providing sixty (60) days of written notice of that intention from either party to the other.

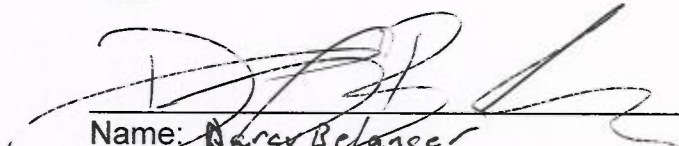
[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this MOU effective as of the last date written below.

Dated this 3 day of July, 2018.

NIAGARA REGIONAL NATIVE CENTRE

  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Name: Darcy Belanger  
Title: Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

  
MAYOR

Approved  
  
Solicitor  
  
Clerk

  
CLERK