



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Community & Recreation Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Beth Gignac, Director Community & Recreation Services

Date to Council: December 12, 2023

Report Number: CRS-2023-22

Subject: Friendship Agreement – Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre and Town of Tecumseh

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That CRS-2023-22 entitled “Friendship Agreement – Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre and Town of Tecumseh **be received;**

And that the Friendship Agreement between Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre and the Town of Tecumseh **be approved.**

Background

Friendship Centres are not-for-profit and charity corporations that are mandated to serve the needs of urban Indigenous people by providing culturally appropriate social and other support services in urban communities. They are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and are membership driven organizations providing a national urban Indigenous service delivery infrastructure to serve all urban Indigenous people, regardless of status coast to coast to coast.

The Friendship Centre vision is to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people living in an urban environment by supporting self-determined activities which encourage equal access to and participation in Canadian society and which respect Indigenous cultural distinctiveness.

In Ontario, there are 29 Friendship Centres that all belong to the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centre (OFIFC) which works to support, advocate for, and build capacity of member Friendship Centres across Ontario.

In November 2020, there was a formal Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) to provide a framework for collaboration between cities/towns and urban Indigenous communities.

The Declaration of Mutual Commitment encourages and supports local Friendship Centres and cities/towns to co-develop local Friendship Agreements to provide similar frameworks supporting the service delivery infrastructure of Friendship Centres for urban Indigenous people.

Comments

The Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre (CAIFC) was incorporated in 1982 and is a grass-roots organization located in Windsor serving the urban Indigenous people of Windsor and all municipalities in Essex County. Services include programs in the following areas: Children/Youth; Healing & Wellness; Health; Employment & Training; Justice; Housing and Culture. CAIFC also offers a range of cultural events for its membership, clients, and the community at large.

Since late 2022, CAIFC has been engaged with the City of Windsor, the County of Essex and the municipalities in Essex County to co-develop a Friendship Agreement with CAIFC.

As a result, Administration is providing Council with a draft Friendship Agreement between CAIFC and the Town of Tecumseh for its consideration (Attachment 2).

Key elements of the Friendship Agreement include Principles to guide the mutual understanding between our organizations to support the urban Indigenous community in Tecumseh:

- Identifying emerging issues and opportunities
- Facilitating access to culturally appropriate services and programs for all ages
- Establish culturally safe employment and social assistance services

Examples of the types of support could include: an information “fair” and/or regularly scheduled drop-in sessions for CAIFC programs or assistance with cultural fluency education for the community.

The proposed length of term for the Friendship Agreement is 2 years with the potential for a further period on the consent of both CAIFC and the Town.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer
 Legislative Services & Clerk
 Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre
 Tecumseh Ogitchada Society
 Caldwell First Nation

Financial Implications

This Friendship Agreement is not a commitment of funds by either CAIFC or the Town. Should funding be proposed to support a mutually agreed upon project, those costs will be identified in the Town’s annual budget process.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Beth Gignac, BA Hons
Director Community & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

Robert Auger, LL.B.
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None