

The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

By-Law Number 2023-117

Being a by-law to execute a Friendship Agreement between The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh and the Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre to achieve a greater impact in improving the lives of urban Indigenous People in Tecumseh

Whereas The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh is desirous of entering into a Friendship Agreement with the Can-Am Friendship Centre (CAIFC) with respect to establishing a framework for the cultural fluency and expertise of the resources provided by CAIFC;

And whereas the term of the agreement shall be from January 1, 2024 through to December 31, 2025.

And whereas under Section 5 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. c.25*, the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council by by-law.

Now Therefore the Council of The Corporation of The Town of Tecumseh enacts as follows:

1. **That** the Mayor and Clerk be authorized and empowered on behalf of The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh, to execute an Friendship Agreement between The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh and Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre dated December 12, 2023, a copy of which Agreement is attached hereto and forms part of the by-law and to do such further and other acts which may be necessary to implement the said Agreement.

Read a first, second, third time and finally passed this 12th day of December, 2023.

Gary McNamara, Mayor

Robert Auger, Clerk

**Friendship Agreement
Between
Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre of Windsor and the Town of Tecumseh**

PURPOSE

To formally develop a strong relationship between the Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre of Windsor (CAIFC) and the Town of Tecumseh (The Town) to Make Friendships (the “Parties”) and achieve greater impact in improving the lives of urban Indigenous People in Tecumseh, Ontario through strategically partnering resources and sharing expertise when possible.

PRINCIPLES

The Friendship Agreement (Agreement) offers a framework for Making Friendships and acknowledges the cultural fluency and expertise of the resources provided by CAIFC. The Friendship Agreement is intended to establish safe spaces and mutual understandings between urban Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people in Tecumseh.

The following Principles will guide the Friendship Agreement:

1. **Respect for Indigenous Cultures and Spiritualities** – Indigenous expertise in Indigenous cultures is recognized, and community-based approaches are understood as essentially linked to positive outcomes;
2. **Respect for Indigenous Diversity** – the distinction and diversity of Indigenous people from across Ontario is recognized and respected;
3. **Community-Led** – community-identified needs and priorities provide the basis for policy and program development;
4. **Collaboration and Co-Development** – recognition that there are two operating systems: oral and written. Recognition of the value of Indigenous, oral systems as providing expertise to design, plan, implement and evaluate policy and programs that impact the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples.
5. **Seven Grandfather Teachings** - these values will guide the relationship: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth
6. **Two Row Wampum** - stands for equity and respect, depicting two boats each navigating the river of life without steering the other. Each boat contains the life, laws and people of each culture.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre (CAIFC)

CAIFC plays a significant role in supporting urban Indigenous people as a centre for education, culturally appropriate programs and services and community development in Tecumseh, spanning all stages of life. Through its work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous members and organizations, and as a member in good standing with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, CAIFC is uniquely positioned to understand the community service needs of urban Indigenous people in Tecumseh.

Activities flowing from this Agreement may include identifying future opportunities for mutual support and partnership in areas of mutual interest in Tecumseh, such as, but not limited to:

- a.) Increasing awareness, education, and cultural competency
- b.) Identifying emerging issues and opportunities
- c.) Facilitating access to culturally appropriate and culturally safe social assistance services and programs for all ages

SCOPE

This Agreement does not represent a commitment on behalf of either Party to pursue specific projects or partnerships. Nor does this Agreement prevent or preclude other forms of agreements to be established with any other organization/s representing Indigenous communities or providing similar programs or services.

This Agreement is not a commitment of funds by either Party because of work that will evolve from the partnership. When funding is required as part of an agreed-upon project by CAIFC and the Town, both will determine funding expectations and obtain all required approvals through procedures of each Party.

DURATION

The Parties agree that this Agreement will be in force for a period of 2 years from the date of the signature and the Parties agree that the term may be extended for a further period on the consent of the Parties, in writing.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

CAIFC and the Town will work together to create increased opportunities for knowledge exchange through regular and ongoing communication. Relevant program and policy information should be shared with each other in a timely manner and in observance of protocols, as required.

DATE: _____

Jennifer D'Alimonte
President of CAIFC Board of Directors

Gary, McNamara

Mayor, Town of Tecumseh