



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: June 2, 2021

Submitted by: Heritage Commission

Subject: Port Moody's Historical Relationship with Indigenous Peoples and Their Lands

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding a resolution passed by the Heritage Commission requesting that the City undertake a study to reflect on its historical relationship with Indigenous peoples and their lands.

Recommended Resolution

THAT the report dated June 2, 2021 from the Heritage Commission regarding Port Moody's Historical Relationship with Indigenous Peoples and Their Lands be received for information.

Background

At the May 13, 2021 Heritage Commission meeting, the Commission's Indigenous Heritage Subcommittee reported back on its work to explore opportunities for embedding reconciliation into the City's work. Following discussion, the Commission passed the following resolution:

HC021/011

WHEREAS the City of Port Moody has committed to meaningful redress and reconciliation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Port Moody formally commit to undertaking a critical reflection of its historical relationship with Indigenous peoples and their lands;

AND THAT an appropriate third party be identified to carry out the work;

AND THAT the appropriate resources be determined and allocated to plan, research, and report the findings;

AND THAT the resultant report outline future actions that the City of Port Moody will take to appropriately acknowledge the findings, prioritizing transparent collaboration with Indigenous peoples with a right and interest in the place we now know as Port Moody.

Discussion

The Heritage Commission's Indigenous Heritage Subcommittee (formerly the Reconciliation Subcommittee) has been working on a mandate to apply a reconciliatory, Indigenous lens to the City's heritage conservation work, with a focus on pre-colonial heritage. The subcommittee's 2021 mandate and scope of work have been included as **Attachment 1**. In 2021, the subcommittee began a comprehensive review of all Commission-published written materials, in consultation with Indigenous partners. The purpose of the review is to consider whether the City's inventory of storyboard, stone makers, and other public-facing "heritage collateral" contains language that merits refinement through a reconciliation lens.

At the May 13, 2021 Heritage Commission meeting, the subcommittee reported back on its progress, including the following:

- the subcommittee received feedback regarding whether this project is an appropriate starting point in the subcommittee's work in the local reconciliation process;
- there are perceptions that the City needs to commit to additional work to understand its own history and its impact on Indigenous peoples and to take meaningful accountability within the relationship-building process with First Nations;
- it may be inappropriate to automatically expect Indigenous communities to provide support for the work;
- the subcommittee may not carry enough weight to conduct this work, which may be out of the scope of the subcommittee or the Commission; and
- the subcommittee recommends a call to action to acknowledge the need for reflection and to put together an action plan to commit resources into this work.

In discussion, the Commission expressed unanimous support for the subcommittee's recommendation, noting that investigating, reflecting on, and acknowledging its own past should be the City's first step. The Commission also noted that although collaboration with First Nations is an essential priority, it is important to the Commission that the City undertake its own work and learning process to be able to bring a full understanding of its own story and past to the table when collaborating.

Staff recommended that, due to limited staff resources, an appropriate third party be identified to carry out the work.

Other Options

1. THAT the report dated June 2, 2021 from the Heritage Commission regarding Port Moody's Historical Relationship with Indigenous Peoples and Their Lands be referred to staff for information.
2. THAT the report dated June 2, 2021 from the Heritage Commission regarding Port Moody's Historical Relationship with Indigenous Peoples and Their Lands be referred to staff for action.

Financial Implications

Further information on financial implications would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

Further information on communication and civic engagement requirements would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Supporting the Heritage Commission's recommendation to reflect on the City's historical relationship with Indigenous peoples and their lands aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan Objective of forming effective relationships with service delivery partners, industries, and stakeholders to improve service delivery.

Attachment

1. Reconciliation Subcommittee Work Plan and Scope of Work, dated October 31, 2020.

Report Author

Philip Lo

Committee Coordinator

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Port Moody's Historical Relationship with Indigenous Peoples and their Lands.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Reconciliation Subcommittee Work Plan and Scope of Work, dated October 31, 2020.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 10, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Takahashi, Deputy Corporate Officer - Jun 7, 2021 - 12:30 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jun 7, 2021 - 4:54 PM

Natasha Vander Wal for Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jun 10, 2021 - 9:55 AM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jun 10, 2021 - 10:27 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jun 10, 2021 - 1:51 PM