

Memorandum

Date: May 11, 2023
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Cultural Services Division
Subject: National Indigenous Peoples Day 2023

National Indigenous Peoples Day is on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. In recent years local artist Tasha Faye Evans has led the organization of an event on this day in support of her Truth and Reconciliation work in the community. These past projects and events led to what is now titled the *In the Presence of Ancestors* project, where five house posts, from five local Coast Salish Nations, will be raised along Port Moody's shoreline.

On June 21 of this year, the first three house posts will be blessed in ceremony at Rocky Point Park. Previously the City supported Ms. Evans' work/events on June 21 through grants from the Festival and Special Event Assistance Program. As the City is a partner on this project, staff have been working with Ms. Evans and taking on a more active role in this year's event.

Rather than requiring Ms. Evans to submit a grant application for this year's event, staff are proposing an alternate method of funding the event that is more appropriate given the partnership. With the return of numerous city-led events in the 2023 budget, there is an opportunity this year. Some of the events being brought back will not occur this year due to the timing of the events and the budget cycle. Staff propose that Cultural Services reallocate approximately \$8,000 of their overall available event budget to support the Blessing Ceremony on June 21. This reallocation would not have a negative impact on the Cultural Services budget for 2023 and no new funds are required.

The budget would cover costs related to the rental of production equipment, production staff, the rental of bleachers and other event supplies. The budget will also be used to cover the staff costs required to assist with the planning and presentation necessary to support the event.

Staff see this partnership as an opportunity to make contacts and build relationships that will assist the City once this project has been completed, with the expectation that the City will wish to continue to have meaningful events each year following.

With respect to an overall timeline, the remaining two house posts are planned to be blessed in ceremony on June 21, 2024. For the 2024 event, staff will first seek to fund the event through the project budget, before exploring other options. Staff also propose introducing the funding for an annual event on National Indigenous Peoples Day through the budget process, either in 2024 or 2025, so that it becomes part of the City's overall event budget.

Staff therefore recommends:

THAT staff reallocate \$8,000 of existing Cultural Services event budget to support the Blessing Ceremony held on June 21, 2023 as recommended in the report dated May 11, 2023 from the Community Services Department – Cultural Services Division regarding National Indigenous Peoples Day 2023.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	National Indigenous Peoples Day 2023.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 15, 2023

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

Anna Mathewson, General Manager of Community Services - May 11, 2023 - 3:03 PM

Stephanie Lam, City Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services - May 11, 2023 - 3:27 PM

Lindsay Todd, Manager of Communications and Engagement - May 12, 2023 - 9:03 AM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - May 12, 2023 - 11:29 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - May 15, 2023 - 11:34 AM