



Report to Council From the Office of Councillor Amy Lubik

Date: January 30, 2020
Subject: Request to Support Participation in The 2020 High Ground Conference

Purpose

To provide members of Council with the opportunity and authorization to attend the High Ground 2020 - Civic Governance in Vancouver, BC March 27 & 28, 2020.

Recommendation

THAT up to four members of Council be authorized to attend the Columbia Institute's Centre for Civic Governance High Ground 2020 conference March 27 & 28, 2020 in Vancouver, BC;

AND THAT the funding of up to \$3570.00 be allocated from Council Contingency fund.

Background

Council is approved and budgeted to attend 3 Conferences a year, UBCM, LMLGA and FCM, anything above and beyond these conferences must be approved by Council.

In March 27 & 28, 2020 the Columbia Institute is hosting the High Ground conference at the Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel in Vancouver. The Columbia Institute is an independent public policy think tank based in BC. Their mission is to foster and support leadership for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable communities across Canada. Each year their High Ground forum brings people together to share information and ideas.

High Ground 2020, the annual civic governance forum, will be held at the Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel in Vancouver, BC from 1pm on Friday, March 27 to 4pm on Saturday, March 28, offering plenty of time for learning, connecting, and inspiring (and being inspired). At this special 27-hour event, which will take place under the banner of "Committed to Action," we aim to foster peer learning, offer insights on how to nurture inclusive, equitable, and sustainable communities, and spark new collaborations.

Their program is still in the works and they will be announcing sessions shortly,

The conference includes a pre-conference workshop called "Personal Journey to Reconciliation". This pre-conference workshop is designed to take participants on a personal journey of decolonization leading to Reconciliation. Learning the true history of these lands, gaining a place-based understanding, and looking at history through an Indigenous lens will

allow for self-reflection and a deeper understanding of the ongoing trauma and harm from colonization. By the end, participants will be better able to demonstrate cultural literacy and discover ways to better serve the populations with whom they work. Participants should bring with them an open mind and an open heart to get the most out of what is sure to be an enlightening experience. Facilitated by Rhiannon Bennett and Andrea Hilder

Topics for this year's forum are covered in attachment 1. Last year's program can also be viewed here: https://columbiainstitute.eco/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Columbia_High_Ground_Harrison_2019_agenda_web_March_28.pdf

Discussion

The Columbia Institute has put on the High Ground Conference in previous years, which members of Council have attended in the past. This is a conference that has had positive reviews and with this year's proposed workshops and agenda, I see this being beneficial for members of Council to attend, given the topic of one of the workshops being reconciliation.

Rates for the conference do vary, as it depends on if Council attends one of the pre forum sessions and how soon Council registers. Full conference registration is \$425.00 if registered prior to March 1st, otherwise it is \$500.00. The pre forum sessions, Personal Journey to Reconciliation workshop and Women in Leadership Dialogue are \$100.00 and \$10.00. Should a Council member wish to attend the boot camp, this is an additional \$150.00.

As Council is approved and budgeted to attend 3 Conferences a year, UBCM, LMLGA and FCM, I am seeking Council's approval to authorize up to 4 members of Council to attend this year's High Ground Conference, with the funding source coming out of Council's Contingency fund. The recommendation is for Council's registration, mileage and per diem costs.

Other Option(s)

THAT the report dated January 30, 2019 from Councillor Amy Lubik regarding High Ground Conference Participation be received for information.

Or

THAT up to _____ members of Council be authorized to attend the Columbia Institute's Centre for Civic Governance High Ground 2020 conference March 27 & 28, 2020 in Vancouver, BC

AND THAT the funding of up to _____ be allocated from Council Contingency fund.

Financial Implications

The below are the maximum costs associated with the conference per council member:

Driving:

Registration	\$760.00
Mileage/parking	\$114.00
Per Diem	\$18.69
Total	\$892.69

Including Hotel:

Registration	\$760
Mileage	\$27.00
Per Diem & Incidental	\$35.17
Hotel	\$250.000
Total	\$1315.17

Please note that there are cost savings should Mayor/Council carpool or take transit and register before the early bird deadline expires.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications and civic engagement initiatives associated with this report.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

- Inspire environmental actions and advocacy
- Economic Prosperity
- Leadership and collaboration.

Attachment(s)

1. Centre for Civic Governance Columbia Institute High Ground 2020 Brochure