

To: CAO for the Regional Indigenous Relations Committee
From: Jessica Morrison, Policy Analyst – Indigenous Relations

Date: 2019-07-11
File No: 3400-01

Subject: Funding Request for Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action Day for Rural Communities

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board approve the request for funding to support the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Call to Action Day to be held at Chawathil First Nation on October 30, 2019, in the amount of \$2,000, to match funds with the three other supporting agencies.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND

The FVRD has received a request from for funding to support (letter attached) a one-time Truth and Reconciliation event that is planned to take place at Chawathil First Nation on October 30, 2019.

DISCUSSION

A committee with representatives from Chawathil First Nation, Spuzzum First Nation, Yale First Nation, Boothroyd First Nation, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation, Fraser Health, the First Nations Health Authority, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), and the Hope and Area Transition Society has begun initial planning for the event.

This TRC Call to Action Day (planning poster attached) will enlighten attendees on the lived experience and ongoing trauma impacting Indigenous communities, and provide a common understanding for local collective action. Members of all communities surrounding Hope, Agassiz and the Fraser Canyon will be invited to the event, with anticipated attendance of 150 - 200.

Three morning panels will feature the stories and experiences of community members, and the afternoon will focus on specific ideas for action and change.

A similar event was held in Chilliwack in 2018 (see attached article), and this 2019 event is planned to serve those communities situated in more rural areas of the region. The event welcomes all Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members as attendees.

COST

Fraser Health is seeking matching funds of \$2,000 from each MCFD, First Nations Health Authority, Fraser Health Aboriginal Health and the Fraser Valley Regional District, to meet the estimated cost for the event. Fraser Health indicates that these costs are consistent with a similar event held in Chilliwack in 2018. The FVRD's Indigenous Relations Committee has funds available in its 2019 budget to accommodate this request.

CONCLUSION

The TRC Call to Action Day will serve multiple communities, and welcomes all to participate. Support for the initiative is responsive to many of the TRC Calls to Action, and would be a positive reflection of the FVRD's support for the advancement of Truth and Reconciliation in the region.

The planning committee has indicated that formal invitations will be extended to elected officials from the FVRD and member municipalities in early fall 2019.

COMMENTS BY:

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services Not available for comment

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer Reviewed and supported

Attachments:

1. Letter from Fraser Health requesting funding support
2. Poster for 2019 event planning
3. Chilliwack Progress article dated May 31, 2018 – "Day of Action held in Chilliwack for Truth and Reconciliation"