

Report

Date

September 6, 2023

File:

Subject

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2023

PURPOSE

To seek Council support for a grant-in-aid for the M'akola Housing Society to assist with the 2023 Every Child Matters Walk on October 2, 2023.

BACKGROUND

September 30 is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The M'akola Housing Society is organizing the third annual Every Child Matters Walk to be held on October 2, 2023. In 2021, the first walk was open to the public and was a significant regional event drawing thousands of participants to the streets of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan. North Cowichan contributed \$2,000 to this event.

In 2022, the M'akola Housing Society again organized the event, which reported more than 6,000 participants. North Cowichan contributed \$3,000 towards this event.

DISCUSSION

Audrey George of the M'akola Housing Society has requested a grant-in-aid for the 2023 event but has not named a specific dollar value. It is anticipated that even more people will participate this year.

In preparing for National Indigenous Peoples Day 2023 (June 21), letters were sent to Lyackson, Penelakut, Halalt and Cowichan Tribes to offer support for any planned National Indigenous Peoples Day events, as well as to offer support for other events, including the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Responses were received from Lyackson requesting support for an event they were organizing and from Cowichan Tribes requesting volunteers for the events held on June 21.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council approve a \$[insert amount] grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society to support the 2023 Every Child Matters Walk to be held on October 2, 2023.
 - Council has previously supported this event with a contribution of \$2,000 in 2021 and \$3,000 in 2022. The First Nations Initiatives budget has \$12,000 remaining in 2023.
2. THAT Council decline to provide a grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society.

IMPLICATIONS

- There is 12,000 dollars remaining in the First Nations Initiatives budget for 2023 to support a grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society for the 2023 Every Child Matters Walk to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Supporting the Every Child Matters Walk does not preclude supporting other First Nation-specific events, should North Cowichan be asked to support.
- Providing funding in any amount to the M'akola Housing Society toward the Every Child Matters Walk is consistent with Council's strategic priority of building strong relationships with Indigenous Peoples and Council's 2021 resolution to locally implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a \$*[insert amount]* grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society to support the 2023 Every Child Matters Walk to be held on October 2, 2023.

Report prepared by:



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Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Talitha Soldera
Acting Chief Administrative Officer