

Report

Date September 4, 2024
Subject National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2024

File:

PURPOSE

To consider providing a grant-in-aid for the M'akola Housing Society to assist with the 2024 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events and the September 30, 2024, Every Child Matters Walk.

BACKGROUND

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The M'akola Housing Society is organizing the fourth annual Every Child Matters Walk to be held on September 30, 2024.

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. And in 2023, North Cowichan contributed \$3,500 toward this event.

This year's event has been expanded to include a film presentation on September 12, storytelling on September 17 and 19, and the walk on September 30.

DISCUSSION

Audrey George of the M'akola Housing Society has requested a grant-in-aid for the 2024 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 2024 (June 21), letters were sent to Lyackson, Penelakut, and Halalt 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. North Cowichan provided volunteers to the Cowichan Tribes events held on June 21.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council approves a \$3,500 grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society, to be taken from the First Nations Initiatives budget, to support the 2024 Every Child Matters Walk to be held on September 30, 2024.
 - Providing funding 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.

2. THAT Council decline to provide a grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society.

IMPLICATIONS

- There is \$19,000 remaining in the First Nations Initiatives budget for 2024.
- Supporting the Every Child Matters Walk does not preclude supporting other First Nation-specific events, should North Cowichan be asked to support.

RECOMMENDATION

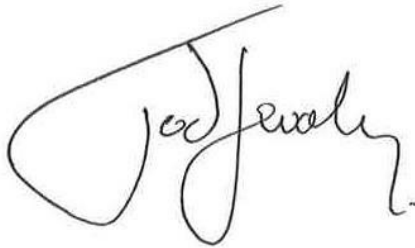
THAT Council approves a \$3,500 grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society, to be taken from the First Nations Initiatives budget, to support the 2024 Every Child Matters Walk to be held on September 30, 2024.

Report prepared by:



Terri Brennan
Executive Coordinator

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

- (1) Letter of Request from M'akola Housing Society dated August 16, 2024