

Report

Date	June 1, 2022	File:
Subject	National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022 – Offer of Support to Halalt First Nation	

PURPOSE

To consider an offer of financial support to Halalt First Nation for a National Indigenous Peoples Day event in 2022.

BACKGROUND

At the May 4, 2022 Council meeting, Council authorized the Chair of the First Nations Relations Committee (FNRC) to sign a letter offering support to Cowichan Tribes for their 2022 National Indigenous Peoples Day event. The original staff report is included as Attachment 1. The staff report that accompanied the draft letter indicated that staff would also liaise with Halalt, Lyackson, Penelakut and Stz'uminus First Nations to inquire as to whether they were holding 2022 events, and that should other First Nations confirm that 2022 events are in progress, staff will work with the FNRC Committee Chair to draft additional letters of support with proportionate suggested support amounts for consideration at a future meeting of Council.

DISCUSSION

The Halalt First Nation has confirmed that they will be hosting an event this year, and the Lyackson First Nation has indicated that they do not plan to host an event but will likely participate in the Halalt's event.

Staff worked with the FNRC Chair to prepare the attached draft letter to Halalt First Nation on behalf of the FNRC Committee (Attachment 2). The letter offers up to \$1,000 to assist with 2022 event costs, inquires as to whether there is any other way North Cowichan can contribute to any potential 2022 event, and expresses interest in exploring future opportunities to collaborate on or contribute to National Indigenous Peoples Day, and other similar events in the future.

Should the remaining First Nations confirm an event is planned, staff are seeking Council authorization to work with the FNRC Committee Chair to prepare a letter similar to that provided to Cowichan Tribes and the attached draft letter to the Halalt, and authorization to offer a proportionate amount of support.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council:
 - (1) Authorize the Chair of the First Nations Relations Committee to sign the letter attached to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer's report dated June 1, 2022, and that it be sent to Halalt First Nation offering up to \$1,000 in financial support towards their planned National Indigenous Peoples Day event in 2022; and,

- (2) Direct staff to work with the First Nations Relations Committee Chair to prepare any additional letters of support for National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022 and authorize the Committee Chair to offer a proportionate amount of financial support.

2. THAT Council:

- (1) Authorize the Chair of the First Nations Relations Committee to sign the letter attached to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer's report dated May 4, 2022, from the Chair of the First Nations Relations Committee, and that it be sent to Halalt First Nation, subject to the following changes: *(Council to identify amendments, including the amount of financial support)*; and,
- (2) Direct staff to work with the First Nations Relations Committee Chair to prepare any additional letters of support and authorize the Committee Chair to offer a proportionate amount of financial support.

IMPLICATIONS

Relationship building is central to the journey toward reconciliation. Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan identifies "continu[ing] to develop strong relationships with Indigenous peoples" as a strategic priority action, and the FNRC Committee was struck in 2019 to support this objective. The Terms of Reference for the FNRC identify that its mandate includes "initiat[ing] and build[ing] programs and activities that foster, maintain and strengthen relationships with Local First Nations."

The proposed letter and offer to Halalt First Nation regarding National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022, and any other letters of support for National Indigenous Peoples Day that Council authorizes, presents an opportunity to build on the relationship with local First Nations and signals our sincere interest in collaborating and/or supporting other similar events in the future.

Council has allocated funds within the 2022 Financial Plan to support relationship building with Indigenous Peoples and to cover the cost of the recommended staff option.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Authorize the Chair of the First Nations Relations Committee to sign the letter attached to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer's report dated June 1, 2022, and that it be sent to Halalt First Nation offering up to \$1,000 in financial support towards their planned National Indigenous Peoples Day event in 2022; and
- (2) Direct staff to work with the First Nations Relations Committee Chair to prepare any additional letters of support for National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022 and authorize the Committee Chair to offer a proportionate amount of financial support.

Report prepared by:



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Report reviewed by:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- (1) May 4, 2022 Report to Council – National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022
- (2) Draft Letter-FNRC Offer to Support Halalt First Nation 2022 National Indigenous Peoples Day Event