



Report to: Council

Meeting Date: March 21, 2017

SUBJECT: Delegation to Eabametoong First Nation, Ontario
PREPARED BY: Asare Kester-Akrofi ext. 6090

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report titled “Delegation to Eabametoong First Nation, Ontario” be received; and
- 2) THAT the City of Markham be represented by a delegation that will travel to Eabametoong First Nation, Ontario from May 3 – May 5, 2017, composed of Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Chair of the Eabametoong First Nation Committee, and Committee members Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong and Councillor Logan Kanapathi; and
- 3) THAT Council approve an expenditure of \$4,950.00, to be funded from the Office of the CAO account #840-841-7849, to cover the total costs incurred for the delegation, and
- 4) THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all thing necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not applicable.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council’s approval for a delegation composed of Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Chair of the Eabametoong First Nation Committee, and Committee members Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong and Councillor Logan Kanapathi to travel to Eabametoong First Nation, Ontario from Wednesday, May 3rd, 2017 to Friday, May 5th, 2017 on a total budget of \$4,950.00.

BACKGROUND:

On January 31, 2017 the City of Markham signed a historic accord – an agreement of Cultural Collaboration with Eabametoong First Nation (EFN). The communities have agreed to:

- Promote social, cultural and economic collaboration in conjunction with Canada’s Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2017.
- Promote harmony and goodwill for the betterment of their residents.
- Stimulate public awareness

The partnership agreement is a first of its kind between a Canadian urban municipality and a remote northern First Nation community. After fruitful discussions on May 10, 2016, with Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Councillor Louie Sugarhead, and past Grand Chief

Harvey Yesno, Council passed a motion on June 28, 2016 giving approval to proceed with the agreement. On January 18, 2017, in Eabametoong First Nation, Chief Elizabeth Atlookan formally signed the agreement on behalf of her community, and Mayor Frank Scarpitti completed the signing at the Markham Civic Centre on January 31, 2017.

This agreement stands as a tangible expression of reconciliation and an innovative way for municipalities and First Nations to work together.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

The delegation visit is significantly symbolic and will continue the strengthening of community ties between Markham and Eabametoong First Nation. Delegates will have the unique opportunity to experience indigenous community and culture. This will deepen the understanding of indigenous life and identify mutual opportunities for legacies which will benefit both communities for years to come. Considerable preparation has been undertaken by Eabametoong First Nation's Chief, Elizabeth Atlookan, Band Council and community to make this visit special for Markham's delegation.

During the visit, discussions of mutual cooperation and a detailed tour of the community will occur. The tour will include the Municipal Band Office, Nursing Station, John C. Yesno Education Centre, Arena, Communications Facility, Powwow Grounds and other sites. The tour will be followed by a celebration dinner with Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Band Councillors and Band Manager to celebrate the historic accord and discuss areas of mutual interest.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Office of the CAO is managing the planning and logistics for the delegation. The total cost for three Markham representatives to participate in the visit of Eabametoong First Nation will not exceed \$4,950.00. This includes the costs of domestic airfare, accommodations, and meals.

Amount per delegate:

Airfare	\$1,050.00
Accommodations	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00

Total	$\$1,650.00 \times 3 = \$4,950.00$
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These costs are to be funded from the Office of the CAO account #840-841-7849.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

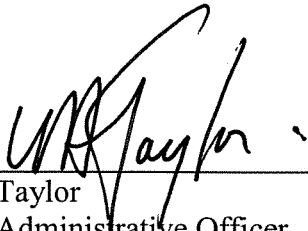
Building Markham's Future Together 2015-2019 Strategic Plan Goals: Exceptional Services by Exceptional People, and Engaged, Diverse and Thriving City.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Office of the CAO

Finance

RECOMMENDED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Taylor', is written over a horizontal line.

Andy Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

A: Markham-Eabametoong First Nation Cultural Collaboration Agreement

B: Eabametoong First Nation Partnership General Committee Report

C: Letter from Chief Elizabeth Atlookan to Mayor Scarpitti, June 8, 2016



CULTURAL COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

By and Between

The City of Markham, Ontario, Canada

And

Eabametoong First Nation, Ontario, Canada

WHEREAS

The City of Markham and Eabametoong First Nation have expressed a desire and willingness to share in cross-cultural enrichment and the tenets of reconciliation between Canada and its First Nations People,

WHEREAS

On May 10, 2016, Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, former Grand Chief Harvey Yesno and Councillor Louie Sugarhead of Eabametoong First Nation met with Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Municipal Councillors, Staff and Business Community Representatives to discuss the possibility of developing a relationship between the City of Markham and Eabametoong First Nation,

NOW THEREFORE

The City of Markham and Eabametoong First Nation express the formalization of their intentions with this CULTURAL COLLABORATION AGREEMENT that will promote social, cultural and economic collaboration in conjunction with Canada's Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2017.

The City of Markham and Eabametoong First Nation undertake to stimulate public awareness of the agreement and promote harmony and goodwill for the betterment of their residents.

COLLABORATION

The Parties hereto acknowledge and agree that they shall collaborate with each other in order to achieve the objectives of this Cultural Collaboration Agreement. The Parties further agree that they shall act in good faith in performing their respective activities and shall act according to the principles of friendly consultation and discussion, equality and


mutual benefit, to ensure that their co-operation can be realized on a mutually agreeable basis.

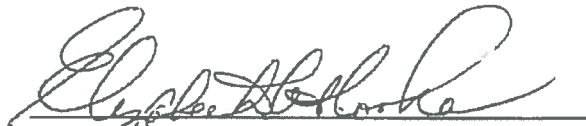
BINDING EFFECT

No Party has the power of authority to legally bind any other Party and nothing herein contained shall be construed as authorizing any Party to act as an agent or representative of any other Party.

Nothing in this Cultural Collaboration Agreement shall be construed to create or constitute a legally binding obligation of the Parties.

DULY SIGNED ON THE 31 DAY OF January 2017


Frank Scarpitti,
Mayor
City of Markham, Ontario, Canada


Elizabeth Atlookan,
Chief
Eabametoong First Nation, Ontario, Canada



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: June 28, 2016

SUBJECT:	Eabametoong First Nation Partnership
PREPARED BY:	Asare Kester-Akrofi, Executive Coordinator, ext. 6090
REVIEWED BY:	Meg West, Manager, Strategic Initiatives ext. 3792

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report titled “Eabametoong First Nation Partnership” be received;
AND
- 2) THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute a Partnership Agreement between the City and Eabametoong First Nation, in a form satisfactory to the Chief Administrative Officer, to promote community and cultural exchange between the two communities and to encourage activities that will promote collaboration and partnership; AND
- 3) THAT Markham Council support a cultural and economic collaboration with Eabametoong First Nation as part of Markham’s Canada 150 Celebration in 2017; AND
- 4) THAT Council endorse providing strategic support for Eabametoong First Nation Legacy Projects subject to finalization of the project list and determination of project feasibility; AND
- 5) THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To endorse the proposed partnership between the City of Markham and Eabametoong First Nation (EFN). This is an opportunity to establish an accord which will enhance our two communities through collaboration, interaction and exchange. The City of Markham has an opportunity to provide guidance, training and strategic support on technological, economic, healthy community building and environmental sustainability issues impacting EFN’s community. EFN has an opportunity to facilitate the expansion of the City of Markham’s understanding and representation of First Nation culture and practices.

By endorsing this initiative, Markham will embrace a leadership role as one of the first municipalities in Ontario to engage directly with a First Nation community in economic capacity building and cultural enrichment. This undertaking would be a community-to-community partnership which will require the involvement of local business sponsorship, leveraging of resources and external relationships.

BACKGROUND:

Ken Caplan is a marketing expert and brand innovator who has managed projects and enterprise strategies for businesses and public sector organizations in Canada and

internationally. Mr. Caplan has coordinated investment attraction for urban, rural and indigenous communities. He is well known within the City of Markham business community and has been a catalyst for innovative problem solving, economic renewal and capacity building.

On Wednesday, January 6th, 2016, Ken Caplan brought forward a presentation to the Executive Leadership Team detailing his involvement with Eabametoong First Nation, a community with the aspirations of building a healthy community economically, socially and culturally. Through ongoing communication and engagement, City Staff came to learn of the many challenges facing this community.

Eabametoong First Nation, also known as Fort Hope, is an Ojibway First Nation in the Kenora District, Ontario, Canada. Located on the shore of Eabamet Lake in the Albany River system, the community is located approximately 300 kilometers northeast of Thunder Bay and is accessible by airplane, water, or by ice roads in the winter. EFN has a population of approximately 1,500 people and is mainly a cash economy with limited employment opportunities.

EFN was established during the fur trade era when Hudson's Bay Company set up a trading post by Eabamet Lake in 1890. James Bay Treaty No.9 was signed in 1905, officially establishing the EFN Band and EFN First Nation Reserve at this location. At that time, about 500 people signed on to join the Band. A new community was built in 1982 across the lake, and the official name Eabametoong First Nation was adopted in 1985.

Eabametoong First Nation Band Council consists of Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, who was elected as Band Chief in 2014 along with Councillors Charlie Okeese, Louie Sugarhead, Clara Wabano, Ralph Shawinimash and Steven Atlookan.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

On Tuesday, May 10th, 2016, an EFN delegation consisting of Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Former Grand Chief Andy Yesno, Councillor Louie Sugarhead, Dr. Jennifer Dockstator of Trent University and Ken Caplan visited the City of Markham. The delegation was provided with an extensive City tour and a collective discussion to understand the challenges faced by EFN and the possibility of partnership with Markham in providing strategic advice on how to meet some of those challenges.

Dr. Jennifer Dockstator has been working at the interface of First Nations communities and Western society, primarily with remote communities in northern Ontario, an area slated for resource development. The national project of which she is a part, Poverty Action Research Project, is community-driven and involves five First Nations across Canada. Jennifer has spent time in northern Ontario, developing a relationship with the people of Eabametoong First Nation, Chief and Council, and Band staff. The six-year research project is funded through a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute on Population and Public Health, and Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health. Its overall aim has been to work with First Nations communities to build upon their many strengths, seeking ways to implement a strategy to address challenges, create

a sustainable economic base, adhere to principles of environmental stewardship, and provide a foundation for community health and well-being.

During the afternoon discussion on May 10th, 2016, EFN identified a number of Legacy Projects for the City of Markham's consideration. Over the coming months, City Staff will develop a plan with considerations for community funding, corporate and individual sponsorship. These areas of community needs include:

1. Education

The John C. Yesno Education Centre in EFN provides education for children from junior kindergarten to grade nine. The school lacks the physical capacity for additional grade levels. Upon completion of grade nine, students must leave EFN to attend high school in Thunder Bay. This transition has often proved difficult based on separation from family and community, social isolation and difficulties integrating into the new school and living situation. There are approximately 25 teachers at the local school; 12 are from southern Ontario.

2. Healthcare

Eabametoong First Nation has a nursing station where first aid is provided through Health Canada. More serious medical treatment requires fly-out to Thunder Bay or Sioux Lookout. Healthcare and wellbeing are ongoing challenges for residents of EFN. For example, the lack of availability of standard equipment supplies including oxygen for those with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), or asthma has created life threatening situations in the community.

As part of the discussion on May 10th, two projects were identified and discussed in detail. The opportunity for medical groups to fly in and provide medical/dental support and service every six months which to date, the Band has been unsuccessful in achieving. The second project involves the acquisition of a Cylinder Filling Plant (CFP) Emergency Oxygen System using technology that provides continuous emergency oxygen for remote medical stations. This is an advanced technological solution capable of filling high pressure oxygen cylinders from traditional oxygen sources.

3. Youth Engagement and Skill Development

There is a need to provide meaningful opportunities to engage and enhance the lives of youth. The number of teen suicides in many Aboriginal communities, including EFN is a national concern which requires multidisciplinary approaches and action. Collaboration can create opportunities to foster optimism for the future through youth engagement in skill development, volunteerism, sport, and community leadership. There are opportunities to encourage youth to help remediate community issues by providing them opportunities to gain much needed skills in the trades and with community mentors. These skills can be deployed for example, to help build local housing and infrastructure.

4. Banking

Eabametoong First Nation has a cash economy that is supplied by fly-in products and currency from Thunder Bay. Municipal employees represent the largest employment group in the community and are paid by cheque, as are social assistance recipients. Band

members take their cheques to Corny's, a retail business that has a contract with the Band to cash cheques, for a fee. There is an ATM at Corny's that dispenses cash but it often runs out before month's end. This is a serious problem for individuals and the Band as a whole.

5. Sustainability

Eabametoong First Nation intends to apply for the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) through the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) with the goal of becoming a net-zero community. This program facilitates the implementation of a comprehensive long-term plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity consumption and assess opportunities for renewable energy solutions. EFN is currently engaging consultants to review ACEP eligibility and City Staff are prepared to support and assist this initiative for success in the grant writing application phase.

6. Energy

Most energy in EFN is provided by diesel-fueled generators. The diesel fuel is brought in by trucks during the winter months on the ice roads. The federal government provides diesel fuel under treaty agreements and although the Band has looked into hydro and solar, the costs and supply agreement requirements have proven to be prohibitive. The generators are generally old and in need of frequent repair, and they are unable to support any additional needed electricity capacity. Homes are primarily heated by wood burning stoves. There is hydro potential nearby but the community has not found the right partner for development.

7. Water

EFN has been under a boil-water advisory for the last 15 years. When the filtration tanks were initially installed, the population was approximately 800. Since then the population has grown to approximately 1,500 but no change has been made to filtration capacity including wastewater treatment.

8. Food Security

Since EFN is a fly-in community many food products including, milk, fruit and vegetables come in by air transport for most months of the year except for 3-4 winter months when ice roads are in operation. The cost is exorbitant. The Band is planning a community garden for the first time this spring and there is discussion around the need for a commercial community green house.

9. Connectivity

Eabametoong First Nation internet operates at different capacities within the community. The municipal offices and most residences have low bandwidth. The school has higher capacity and the home of the school director has somewhat higher bandwidth. All internet is provided by satellite service which is slow. Cell phone and landline service is available. Current planning is for full broadband service with fibre optics to be available in EFN by 2019-2020.

Eabametoong First Nation is completing a new communications facility. EFN has taken a bank loan for the project as repeated requests for government funding have been unsuccessful. Communications equipment is still required.

10. Housing and Innovative Community Planning

There is a housing shortage in EFN. Overcrowding is common and many homes are in need of repair. There are currently 26 serviced lots ready for development however funds are unavailable for construction, and as noted above, there is insufficient electricity generation capacity to service these homes. EFN also has a draft plan for a much needed Youth Recreation Centre with a price tag of \$3.5 million. Innovative development and financing concepts are required for facilities that could be built in the community.

11. Economic Development and Business

Eabametoong First Nation Council has authorized the creation of an economic development corporation with the goal of attracting outside investment. Mark Dockstator, President of First Nations University in Regina, Saskatchewan is guiding the process. There is a need for sound business development, and a hope for cultural tourism to become a primary economic source.

Canada 150 Celebration

Collaboration between EFN and Markham during the sesquicentennial and beyond would provide a unique opportunity for our community to learn about the values of indigenous culture and EFN in particular. The most important mutual benefit of this partnership is the enriching of lives in both communities through partnership, communication and awareness. This is an example of effective community-to-community collaboration.

Conclusion

The Eabametoong First Nation community faces considerable economic, social and environmental challenges. Markham's long history of successful and innovative partnerships and its ability to mobilize demonstrates the skills necessary to incite positive change in EFN, while strengthening our own multicultural vibrancy. A partnership agreement between the two communities could serve as a model for other municipalities and First Nations communities in the promotion of "Nation building".

Next Steps

City Staff requires Council approval to enter into a Partnership Agreement between the City of Markham and Eabametoong to promote community and cultural collaboration. Staff will continue to investigate opportunities to work in partnership with EFN on Legacy Projects. This is subject to finalization of the EFN project list and relative project feasibility.

Since January 2016, Ken Caplan has consistently provided strategic guidance and support to City Staff in response to questions regarding the challenges EFN faces. Mr. Caplan has been integral to the effective communication and cultural bridging of the two communities and has effectively positioned relations for success. Staff relied on Mr. Caplan's expertise and intimate knowledge of EFN culture and personnel in preparation for the delegation's visit of the City of Markham on May 10th, 2016. Mr. Caplan

continues to be an invaluable resource to both communities and will continue to help strengthen governmental relations and the coordination of Legacy Projects.

The City will retain Ken Caplan in a consulting capacity in order to continue building the relationship between Markham and EFN. Staff will work with Mr. Caplan to scope potential opportunities and will develop a proposed action plan with deliverables and outcomes to the satisfaction of the Chief Administrative Officer.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

City Staff will retain the professional services of consultant Ken Caplan of Kenneth Caplan and Associates Limited. Mr. Caplan will provide a workplan outlining his services toward achieving a partnership. The total cost of services received will not exceed \$60,000, plus applicable taxes for a commitment of 12 months.

Additional financial considerations related to Markham undertaking the support of the EFN Legacy Projects is to be determined, and will be the subject of future reports to Council.

It is important to note that the City's primary role will be to leverage our local community leaders. By strategically utilizing resources and bringing awareness to the challenges facing EFN, we intend to leverage the necessary support to strengthen their community.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

Not Applicable

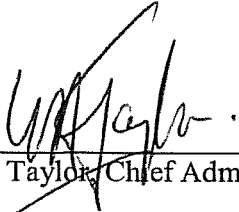
ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This partnership has the potential to align with all Building Markham's Future Together goals: Engaged, Diverse and Thriving City, Exceptional Services by Exceptional People, Safe and Sustainable Community and Stewardship of Money and Resources.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

The undertaking of this partnership will require cross-commission, organization wide support.

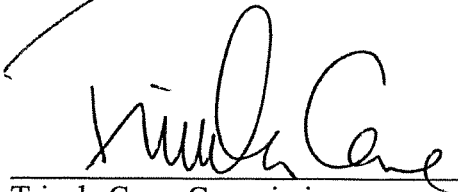
RECOMMENDED BY:



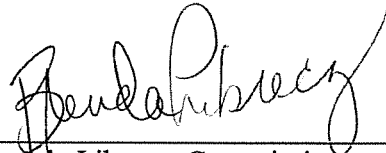
Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer



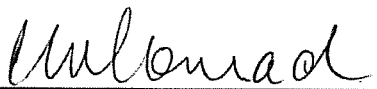
Jim Baird, Commissioner,
Development Services



Trinela Cane, Commissioner,
Corporate Services



Brenda Librecz, Commissioner,
Community & Fire Services



Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor &
Acting Director, Human Resources

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Letter from Chief Elizabeth Atlookan of Eabametoong First Nation

Attachment 2 - Location Map of Eabametoong First Nation

Eabametoong First Nation

Fort Hope Indian Reserve #64

P.O. Box 298

Eabamet Lake, ON P0T 1L0

Tel.: (807) 242-7221

Fax: (807) 242-1441

June 8, 2016

Dear Mayor Scarpitti,

On behalf of the people of Eabametoong First Nation, I would like to thank you for your hospitality and for extending a warm welcome to me, former Grand Chief Harvey Yesno, and Councilor Louie Sugarhead on May 10, 2016.

The morning tour and afternoon meeting and discussion were very informative, and our visit was extremely interesting. In sharing details of the day with the rest of Council, we commented on your thoughtful attention to detail – from the pins and flag-raising ceremony to the delicious luncheon and gifts – and we talked about the opportunity before us in further exploring and developing a partnership with the City of Markham.

We are very interested in pursuing a mutually beneficial relationship with you in any of the areas we discussed in person, including (but certainly not limited to):

- Eabametoong First Nation's participation in Markham's 150th birthday celebrations for Canada
- Eabametoong First Nation's contribution to an art exhibit in a Markham gallery
- Exploring opportunities and continuing discussions on:
 - Additional cross-cultural exchanges –
 - where Eabametoong students travel to Markham and Markham students travel to Eabametoong to learn about each other's cultures and the places where we both live
 - participation in school and summer programs in both places
 - participation of Eabametoong adults in skills training programs offered in the City of Markham
 - How and in what areas the City of Markham might provide support and assistance to Eabametoong in Band Office operations as well as Community-Wide initiatives, such as (in no particular order):
 - Preparation of urban plans to envision future development in Eabametoong (e.g., youth centre, senior's residence, recreation centre, community hall, palliative care centre, a business park, etc.)
 - A visit by a medical field clinic
 - Supply of medical equipment and sports equipment
 - A Community Energy Plan – exploring how Eabametoong get off diesel and move to more sustainable and renewable energy sources
 - and more . . .

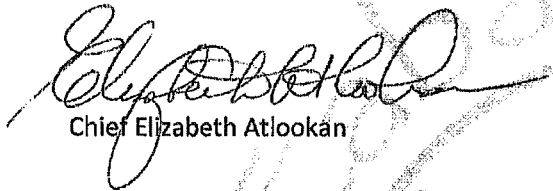
While much was discussed on May 10th, other areas for collaboration are possible that perhaps were not mentioned, including our plans to develop a greenhouse operation and a sewing circle project, among other initiatives.

Council will be passing a Band Council Resolution in the next week or so as a way to formalize Eabametoong First Nation's interest to continue the discussion in framing and pursuing a partnership between our two communities.

We look forward to working with you on this endeavor and hope to one day return your hospitality by welcoming you to our territory.

Once again, thank you for hosting us in May and for everyone's efforts in making the day so special for us. We really appreciate the hard work that went into making the day a success.

In gratitude,



Chief Elizabeth Atlookan

