

NO: R119

COUNCIL DATE: **JUNE 15, 2015**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **June 12, 2015**

FROM: **Officer in Charge, Surrey RCMP  
General Manager, Finance & Technology**

FILE: **1850-01**

SUBJECT: **Funding Request - 2015 Pulling Together Canoe Journey**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Surrey RCMP and Finance & Technology recommend that Council allocate \$5,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the 2015 Pulling Together Canoe Journey, as generally described in this report.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide background information about the Pulling Together Canoe Journey history and to seek approval for funding support from the Council Initiatives Fund in the amount of \$5,000 for hosting one evening dinner during the 11 day Journey.

## BACKGROUND

In 1997 RCMP S/Sgt. Ed Hill organized a Vision Quest Journey designed to improve relations between police and First Nation communities. Vision Quest had RCMP officers and First Nation peoples participating in a canoe journey down the West Coast of British Columbia, visiting many First Nation communities along the way.

Building on the success of this first event, the RCMP initiated plans to hold another, larger canoe journey, and an invitation was extended to police agencies and First Nation communities across the province. In 2001, the first ever Pulling Together Canoe Journey was held with over 100 participants paddling down the Fraser River. The Journey is now an annual event which involves hundreds of participants, including other public service agencies and youth at risk.

The significance of the canoe in the Pacific Northwest is both an artistic and a symbolic representation of cultural identity. The combination of law enforcement personnel and First Nation peoples together in a canoe, paddling in unison is a powerful symbol of positive relationships and mutual respect. The journey itself is an unforgettable spiritual experience that blends teamwork with culture and adventure. This experience is shared among the paddlers, but extends to the Canoe Family support crews and host communities as well.

The mission of the Pulling Together Canoe Journey is:

*“Recognizing the past by Pulling Together to enhance understanding between Public Service Agencies and Aboriginal Peoples by Canoeing the traditional highway, strengthening our future relations.”*

## **DISCUSSION**

The Semiahmoo First Nation is the host Nation of the 2015 Pulling Together Canoe Journey and has been working in partnership with the Surrey RCMP and CN Rail to plan this year’s event (which has been sub-titled ‘Healthy Ways’). Representatives from the Surrey RCMP Detachment (members and municipal employees) have been participating on the planning committee, and will also be participating as paddlers in the journey itself.

The voyage begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> at Harrison Lake and works its way down the Fraser River before ending at the Salish Sea – Semiahmoo Bay on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The participants will be made up of a variety of groups, including First Nations, government agencies, community groups, private partners, youth and youth at risk. Numerous organizations and other First Nation communities will be hosting and/or sponsoring meals and events during the Journey, including the other organizing partner, CN Rail.

The Surrey RCMP and Finance & Technology are recommending that the City of Surrey sponsor one day of the 11 day journey. It is proposed that on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> the City of Surrey sponsor a dinner for the Journey participants. In addition to financial support, the idea would be to have both City and RCMP representatives on site to assist with meal preparation and serving.

The celebration of coming together to break bread is very symbolic to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment in most every culture. This opportunity would allow for the sharing of stories and personal experiences along with the act of sharing a meal. A larger community event at the close of the Journey would also provide opportunity to showcase the diversity and vitality of our local communities.

### **Status of Council Initiative Fund**

**Appendix I** attached to this report provides the status of the Council Initiatives Fund on the assumption that the recommendation of this report will be approved by Council.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

This initiative assists in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly the following action items:

- SC2: Cultural Awareness in the Workplace; and
- SC4: Cultural Awareness in the Community.

## CONCLUSION

The Semiahmoo First Nation community, along with its organizing partners, CN Rail and the Surrey RCMP, are excited to host the Healthy Ways Pulling Together Canoe Journey 2015. The City of Surrey has an opportunity to participate in and sponsor part of the event, to showcase the strength, vibrancy and diversity of our community.

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy  
Officer in Charge (OIC)  
Surrey RCMP

Vivienne Wilke, CPA, CGA  
General Manager,  
Finance & Technology

Appendix I - Status of the Council Initiatives Fund

Appendix I



**2015 FINANCIAL PLAN  
COUNCIL INITIATIVES**

Description	Amount	Allocation to date
Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	
<b>2015 Approved Budget</b>	<u>250,000</u>	
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 3 of 5)		40,000
2015 Façade Enhancement Program		25,000
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 1 of 3)		10,000
2015 Sponsor Appreciation Event		10,000
SANSU Addictions Education Series		2,400
Surrey Knights Swim Club		3,000
2015 CBHA Western Challenge Cup		3,500
2015 BC Hockey Pee Wee Championship		2,000
Elleven Management SX Cup 2015		4,000
Surrey Steps Up: Youth Engagement Campaign		10,000
Policing Costs for Community Events		55,000
Evolution of Communities Forum		10,000
SASSY Awards 2015		7,500
15th Women's World Softball Championship		25,000
Yo-Bro Youth Initiatives Proposal (Proposed)		10,000
Newton Pop-up Arts Space Project (Proposed)		11,350
<b>2015 Pulling Together Canoe Journey (Proposed)</b>		<b>5,000</b>
Canada Cup Field Hockey Event (Proposed)		3,500
<b>Allocations for 2015</b>		<u>\$ 237,250</u>