

NO: R132

COUNCIL DATE: **June 12, 2017**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **June 7, 2017**

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

FILE: **1850-01**

SUBJECT: **Funding Request - 2017 Pulling Together Canoe Journey**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Surrey RCMP and the Finance & Technology Departments recommend that Council allocate \$8,500 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the 2017 Pulling Together Canoe Journey.

## 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 in the amount of \$8,500 for co-hosting a communal dinner to be held at Ambleside Park in West Vancouver on July 12, 2017.

## BACKGROUND

In 1997, RCMP Staff Sergeant Ed Hill organized a Vision Quest Journey between police and First Nation communities designed to improve relations. The Vision Quest Journey had RCMP officers and First Nation peoples participating in a canoe journey travelling down the West Coast of British Columbia. From the success of this first event, came the idea for a larger initiative called Pulling Together which involved law enforcement from other agencies, along with the RCMP and First Nation communities. In 2001, the first Pulling Together Canoe Journey took place with over 100 participants. The Pulling Together Canoe Journey (the "Journey") this year is expected to include between 300-500 people.

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 relationship and mutual respect.

The mission statement of the Pulling Together Canoe Journey Society 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 2017 event will take place July 5<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>. It will begin in Sechelt and conclude at Stanley Park. A variety of organizations will be participating, including: First Nations, law enforcement and other government agencies, community groups, private partners, and youth groups. The event is designed to be a way to bring cultures closer together and raise understanding of each other.

This will be the second time that Surrey RCMP has had an active participation beyond the First Nations Policing Program. In 2015, Surrey RCMP helped to co-host the Journey alongside CN Rail and Semiahmoo First Nation. However, this is the first year that Surrey RCMP will be engaging the Surrey School District with six Surrey youth participating in the Journey. In addition to First Nations Policing staff, Surrey RCMP and the City of Surrey will be represented for the duration of the 10 day journey.

In June 2015, Council approved funding in the amount of \$5,000 to support the 2015 Pulling Together Canoe Journey. The Surrey RCMP and Finance & Technology Departments are recommending that the City of Surrey sponsor part of the Journey by co-hosting one dinner during the 10 day journey. The organizers of the event have advised that Mayor and Council are welcome to attend this dinner at Ambleside Park on July 12.

In addition to sponsoring the dinner (in partnership with CN Rail), 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. The sharing of food is an important aspect within the idea of sharing a culture. In addition to the dinner, the money would be used to provide gifts to the host nations that will be home for the various nights of the journey. Gifting is an important part of the work and cultural protocols that will happen on a nightly basis to the host Nation.

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

Appendix “1” 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**

Participation in the Pulling Together Canoe Journey relates to the Sustainability Charter themes of Public Safety, Inclusion, and Education and Culture. Specifically, it supports the following Desired Outcomes:

- Public Safety DO5: Surrey is recognized and perceived as a leader in establishing and maintaining collaborative partnerships for community safety and well-being.
- Inclusion DO1: Surrey welcomes, includes, embraces and values the diversity of people who live here.
- Inclusion DO2: Surrey is a caring and compassionate city that supports its residents of all backgrounds, demographics and life experiences.
- Inclusion DO3: Residents have opportunities to build social connections with people from different backgrounds.

- Inclusion DO7: Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment, and opportunities for cultural connections.
- Inclusion DO25: Surrey has a culture of collaboration and innovation to solve complex social problems.
- Education and Culture DO9: Surrey supports and celebrates its diverse artists, cultures and community heritage through inclusive festivals, programming and events.

## CONCLUSION

The City of Surrey has a unique opportunity to participate and sponsor this event. It will allow Surrey to showcase the strength, vibrancy and diversity of our community while demonstrating leadership by a municipality working with their local First Nation. It also demonstrates the City's commitment to social innovation and building new partnerships with Aboriginal people, based on truth, dignity and mutual respect, as per the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Statement of Reconciliation and lessons learned from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve a sponsorship contribution of \$8,500 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the 2017 Pulling Together Canoe Journey.



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Officer in Charge (OIC)  
Surrey RCMP

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Appendix "I" - Status of the Council Initiatives Fund

## APPENDIX "I"


**2017 FINANCIAL PLAN  
COUNCIL INITIATIVES**

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	8,000		
<b>2017 Adopted Budget</b>	<u>250,000</u>		<b>\$ 258,000</b>
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 5 of 5)		40,000	
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 3 of 3)		10,000	
C <sub>2</sub> U Expo		20,000	
Indo-Canadian Dental Association Gala		2,500	
100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge Battle		2,000	
The Debaters		350	
Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society		3,500	
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association		3,500	
Surrey Hospice Society (Proposed)		2,500	
100 Year Journey (Proposed)		6,000	
West Coast Centre for Learning (Proposed)		2,000	
Surrey Urban Aboriginal Strategy (Proposed)		25,000	
<b>Pulling Together Canoe Journey (Proposed)</b>		<b>8,500</b>	
<b>Allocations for 2017</b>		<u><b>\$ 125,850</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 132,200</b></u>