

REPORT TO FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

SUBJECT Forum of All Councils Summary Report

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide a summary report of the recent Forum of All Councils.

BACKGROUND

The CRD Special Task Force on First Nations Relations Final Report (2018) recommended an annual Forum of All Councils to bring together leadership from First Nations, municipalities, and electoral areas. A Forum of All Councils was held in late 2019 and then paused in recent years due to pandemic health restrictions and the General Local Election in 2022.

On October 14th, 2023 the CRD once again hosted a Forum of All Councils to bring together First Nations' leadership with local government elected representatives to build relationships and explore ways to work together. The theme of this year's Forum was Indigenous self-determination in the context of relationships with local governments. Participants included First Nations, Mayors and Councillors, and Electoral Area Directors.

The Summary Report (Appendix A) outlines the structure and agenda of the Forum, provides an overview of what was shared by First Nations and guest speakers, and summarizes the feedback received from participants. A draft of the Summary Report was provided to the First Nation participants who attended the Forum and to certain First Nation staff who provided feedback and guidance that helped to shape the agenda for the day.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board Priorities, Existing Plans & Strategies

By providing a forum for First Nations to share their priorities and perspectives with local government representatives, the Forum of All Councils supported the Board Priority of hearing more from First Nations' governments as to how they would like the CRD to approach reconciliation. Inviting guidance from First Nations on understanding and developing new mechanisms for working together also supported the Priority of strengthening government-to-government decision-making that uplifts Indigenous self-determination.

First Nations Reconciliation & Intergovernmental Implications

Participating in the Forum and listening to the perspectives of local First Nations as well as the guest speakers demonstrates a commitment from local government representatives to ongoing learning, which is a critical component to strengthening government-to-government relationships and implementing the Board's Statement of Reconciliation. While there was limited attendance from First Nation Chiefs and Councilors, the message staff received from those who did attend was that there is value in creating a platform for dialogue with interested Nations, even if participation is limited.

Service Delivery Implications

Priority topics raised by First Nations at the Forum relate to service delivery, environmental protection, capacity challenges, and governance. The themes heard will be shared internally by staff to inform the Government-to-Government Relationship Building Initiative, Inclusive Governance Initiative, ongoing dialogue between CRD Divisions and First Nations related to related aspects of service delivery, and the eventual development of a CRD Reconciliation Action Plan.

CONCLUSION

The Forum of All Councils Summary Report provides an overview of the 2023 Forum that brought together First Nations' leadership with local government elected representatives to build relationships and explore ways to work together.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Forum of All Councils Summary Report