

Motion to be Considered at the CRD Board Meeting of March 14, 2018

CRD Support for the Songhees Nation Bid for the 2020 North American Indigenous Games

Background

The Songhees Nation is working with other south Vancouver Island First Nations on a bid for the 2020 North American Indigenous Games.

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are among the largest sporting and cultural gathering of Indigenous Peoples in North America, in recent years hosting more than 5,000 participants, 2,000 volunteers and countless spectators for 14 sport categories.

The vision of the NAIG is to "improve the quality of life for Indigenous Peoples by supporting self-determined sports and cultural activities which encourage equal access to participation in the social / cultural / spiritual fabric of the community in which they reside and which respects Indigenous distinctiveness."

The Games provides Indigenous youth, aged 13-19, an opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities through 14 sports and to celebrate their heritage through numerous cultural events. Participants have represented all Canadian provinces, more than one third of US states, and over 765 Nations or Tribes.

Vancouver Island hosted the NAIG in Victoria in 1997 and in Cowichan in 2008.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission identified sports, in Calls to Action #87 through 91, and the NAIG specifically, in Call to Action #88, as important paths of Reconciliation.

88. We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

The Songhees Nation is working with the provincial and federal governments, Tourism Victoria, the University of Victoria, Camosun College, Royal Roads University, the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE), the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (ISPARC), the organizers of the 2008 NAIG held in Cowichan, corporate and private sponsors, and other municipalities in the capital region.

Songhees Nation submitted an expression of interest January 12, 2018.

The North American Indigenous Games Selection Committee reviewed and approved the Songhees Nation's expression of interest, allowing the Nation to proceed to the next, final phase of the bidding process. On February 26, 2018, Chief Ron Sam and the Songhees

Nation Leadership formally announced their Nation's bid for the 2020 NAIG. Present at that announcement were elected representatives from Oak Bay, Saanich, Esquimalt, Highlands, Langford, Colwood, among others. Provincial government MLAs and staff were also present, along with local and regional business leaders.

At that announcement, Chief Sam spoke to the economic impact of the NAIG, referencing the financial benefits accrued by Greater Toronto from the 2017 NAIG, in the range of \$44 million. Further analysis by the 2020 Bid Committee proposes a draft budget for the games with expenses in the range of \$11 million, based on extrapolation of games budgets from Toronto (2017), Cowichan (2007) and Victoria (1997).

For the final bid package, due March 16, 2018, the host Nation must include clear expressions of financial support from their partners. Requests for such support have been submitted to all municipalities within the region, the provincial and federal governments, and select corporate, media and other sponsors. Follow up to those requests is ongoing.

Motion

1. That the Capital Regional District support, in principle, the bid by the Songhees Nation for the 2020 North American Indigenous Games, contingent on sustaining funding, as set out by the NAIG Council bid requirements, from the provincial and federal governments.
2. That the CRD Board Chair write immediately to Chief Ron Sam and the Songhees Nation confirming this support and the Motion as adopted.
3. That, should the Songhees Nation be awarded the 2020 North American Indigenous Games, and once sustaining provincial and federal funding has been confirmed, the Capital Regional District will enter into conversation with the Songhees Nation about opportunities for administrative, in-kind and/or financial support from the CRD.

Respectfully submitted by:
Director Alto

In Concurrence:
Director Helps
Director Howe
Director Williams