



Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive P.O. Box 328,
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4X7

Email: info@newmarket.ca | Website: newmarket.ca | Phone: 905-895-5193

Indigenous Community Fundraiser Information Report to Council

Report Number: INFO-2021-25

Department(s): Human Resources

Author(s): Jennifer Rose, Healthy Workplace Program Specialist

Distribution Date: August 4, 2021

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to make Council aware of an initiative in support of the Indigenous community created by the Town's internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group.

Background

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group (DEIWG) was formed in July 2018 and is comprised of staff from across the organization who volunteer their time on the Working Group. The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) and Operational Leadership Team (OLT) are sponsors of DEIWG and have designated at least one member of SLT and OLT to sit on the Working Group. As Sponsors, they champion the program by supporting initiatives by communicating and promoting them to staff as well as being an active participant, and advocating for funds and resources when possible as requested by the Working Group.

Other initiatives completed and in progress by the DEIWG can be reviewed in the [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group Annual Report for 2020](#).

Discussion

In light of the horrific discovery of thousands of unmarked graves at residential schools, the Indigenous community has become an area of focus for the DEIWG. The first action taken was offering all Town staff an Indigenous Awareness training session on June 24,

2021 delivered by Kim Wheatley, an Anishinaabe Traditional Grandmother from Shawanaga First Nation Reserve. To build on the positive reaction of staff to the training session and in an effort to support local Indigenous Peoples we have developed a Town staff fundraiser.

The Town is encouraging staff (and Council members) to purchase an orange hat to be worn for the month of September while they are at work, to demonstrate our full support for the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nations, our close neighbours and friends, and all Indigenous communities across Canada. Hats will be purchased for \$15 and 100% of the proceeds from the purchases will go towards [Dnaagdawenmag Biinnoojiiyag, Child and Family Services](#), an organization that was selected in collaboration with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. Dnaagdawenmag BiinnooJiiyag, Child and Family Services is a multi-service Indigenous Child Well-Being Agency that provides a stable foundation for children, youth and families through wraparound services that are culturally-based and family-focused.

Just prior to September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Town will present the cheque to the organization.

Conclusion

The Town's DEIWG will continue look for meaningful ways to support and engage the Indigenous community while reviewing the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Findings Report.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Council's Strategic Priorities for 2018-2022 are guided by the principles of diversity and inclusion, and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group specifically assists with creating an environment for an engaged, accessible and inclusive community.

Consultation

Chief Donna Big Canoe of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation was consulted as part of this initiative.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

None.

Attachments

None.

Contact

For more information contact:

Healthy Workplace Program Specialist, Jennifer Rose at jrose@newmarket.ca; or

Current DEIWG Chair, Rob Wilson at rwilson@newmarket.ca

Approval

Ian McDougall, Chief Administrative Officer