

1410-04
Report –
Administrative

xref: 1300-40
First Nations
Governments

RESPONSE TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION'S JUNE 2015 "94 CALLS TO ACTION"

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer dated November 6, 2017 recommending that Council receive the report for information; initiate formal relationships with neighbouring First Nations governments; give staff full authority to implement no cost projects or initiatives that improve government to government relationships; and direct staff to create an Interdepartmental Working Group to create a report outlining a thorough assessment for the June 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's "94 Calls to Action" report and identify potential initiatives for the District to explore with neighbouring First Nations governments.

The Chief Administrative Officer stated:

- The working group would include all departments including police and fire.
- Council made a motion at a previous Council meeting to recognize First Nations; it is important for the District to build relationships with Saanich's neighbouring First Nations before recognition.
- Initial meetings have taken place with a number of Saanich's neighbouring First Nations governments to begin the process of building government to government relationships; each Nation is unique and it is important that a strategy is developed for each of the First Nations on how to proceed.
- A key piece to building meaningful relationships is ensuring there is a sincerity of the work the municipality is undertaking and be seen as genuine.
- The recognition statement will be read at the beginning of Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.
- Building a relationship will be a long term process and will have implications for work across the organization.
- There is no presupposed vision of what type of work could be undertaken; the recommendation would give staff authority to implement projects that would not have costs.
- Staff would report back to Council on a regular basis.
- It is the intent that this work would take place at the operational level.

**MOVED by Councillor Murdock and Seconded by Councillor Haynes:
"That:**

- 1. Council receive the report for information;**
- 2. Formal relationships with neighbouring First Nations governments be initiated;**
- 3. Staff be given full authority to implement no cost projects or initiatives that improve government to government relationships; and**
- 4. Staff be directed to create an Interdepartmental Working Group to create a report outlining a thorough assessment of the June 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's "94 Calls to Action" report and identify potential initiatives for the District to explore with neighbouring First Nations governments."**

Councillor Murdock stated:

- Work with First Nations will develop over time and will be long lasting.
- It is important to acknowledge history.

Councillor Plant stated:

- This is a step in the right direction for the long term; our community embraces First Nations' culture.

Mayor Atwell stated:

- Engagement will be important and may be different for each First Nations group.
- There is a need for First Nations representation at the CRD level.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

The Director of Parks and Recreation left the meeting at 9:48 p.m.
