

---

## Aboriginal Engagement and Inclusion – Naming Process

### Recommendation

That the information be received.

### Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the receipt of naming submissions as a result of efforts for increased awareness of the City of Saskatoon Naming of Civic Property and Development Areas Policy among Aboriginal community groups.

### Report Highlights

1. A number of initiatives have been undertaken since the fall of 2015 to increase awareness of the Naming of Civic Property and Development Areas Policy (Naming Policy).
2. Since the fall of 2015, nine of the 39 names submitted to the Naming Advisory Committee (NAC) for consideration included an Aboriginal theme; however, four of those submissions were placed on hold pending a review of non-surname submissions.
3. A review of naming policies from other Canadian municipalities provides options to recognize non-surname street names. Examples are provided for consideration of the evaluation of non-surname submissions.
4. Further initiatives are being pursued, including a pilot project to review the Naming Policy through an equity lens and to better understand how to engage with under-represented communities.

### Strategic Goal

This report supports the City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Goal of Quality of Life by identifying actions for enhancing Aboriginal engagement and participation in our community. The ten-year strategy to strengthen relations with local Aboriginal organizations is also supported.

### Background

At the September 21, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee, it was resolved, in part:

“That with respect to the efforts for increased awareness for the City’s “Naming of Civic Property and Development Areas Policy”, and related processes, a further report be received in one year by the appropriate committee on the yield of nominations as a result of increased awareness.”

Furthermore, at the May 19, 2016 NAC meeting, the Administration was instructed to report back regarding revisions to the Naming Policy specifically on the admission of non-surname submissions and that the names ‘Ayishinoo’ (Métis word meaning ‘Aboriginal’), ‘Rispay’ (Métis word meaning ‘respect’), ‘Shakihi’ (Métis word meaning ‘love’), and ‘Newo’ (Cree word meaning ‘four’) be kept on hold pending said revisions.

### **Report**

#### Initiatives to Increase Awareness of the Naming Process in Aboriginal Communities

The Community Services Department, in collaboration with the Director of Aboriginal Relations, undertook the following initiatives to increase awareness of the Naming Policy:

1. In the fall of 2015, 1,200 brochures were distributed to First Nations and Métis housing organizations including the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc., Sask Native Rentals, and Camponi Housing Corp.
2. Presentations were made at Camponi Housing Corp. tenant meetings in the fall of 2016 and 2017 about the naming process and how to participate;
3. There were meetings in early 2016 with both private and public school boards to discuss the naming process and how it may relate to curriculum;
4. In the spring of 2016, presentations were made to two grade-school classrooms to solicit names with an Aboriginal theme from students;
5. Presentations were made to the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the Indigenous Students Association at the University of Saskatchewan to provide an overview of the naming process, followed by a discussion of how those organizations could encourage more Aboriginal naming submissions.
6. The composition of NAC was changed to include Diversity Inclusion Consultants beginning in 2016;
7. The Name the North Commuter Parkway project responds directly to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action No. 79 to “participate in a strategy to commemorate Aboriginal peoples’ history and contributions to Canada.” The community as a whole is invited to participate in the process of naming the North Commuter Parkway, with the support of Aboriginal Elders and residential school survivors, who will reflect and deliberate on all submissions to determine a shortlist of four names; and
8. The other submissions from the North Commuter Parkway project will be reviewed and considered for addition to the Names Master List for the naming of other municipally-owned or controlled facilities, including streets and parks.

#### Yield of Submissions

Since the fall of 2015, the Naming Advisory Committee has received a total of 39 submissions, nine of which have an Aboriginal or reconciliation theme. Seven of those nine were received from the two grade-school classrooms; however, of the nine submitted, four were placed on hold while a review of the Naming Policy was completed

regarding the admission of non-surname submissions. Of the other five, three are in use and one remains on the Names Master List for future consideration. The full list and status of the nine submissions are included as Attachment 1.

### The Admission of Non-Surname Submissions

Presently, the Naming Policy provides the opportunity to screen naming submissions for outstanding contributions by individuals, as well as for non-individual submissions such as historic events, names which recognize the flora and fauna of the local area, or the geographical or topographical features of the local area. A review of naming policies from other Canadian municipalities provides further options to recognize non-surname names. The following are examples that may be used as a guideline for screening to provide the opportunity for non-surname submissions:

1. The area name should reflect the City's heritage and/or further a sense of community (City of Calgary);
2. That the names to be honoured reflect the heritage, cultural, ethnic, or gender diversity of the community, including early pioneers who have contributed significantly to the City (City of Edmonton);
3. Naming after a person, persons, traditions, tradition bearers, historic event, topographic feature, or native flora or fauna (Region of Halifax);
4. To commemorate local history, organizations, places, events, or culture (City of Winnipeg);
5. To recognize communities which contribute to the ethno-racial diversity of the City (City of Winnipeg);
6. Should portray a strong positive image and have geographic, historical, cultural, or social significance or contributions to the community, city, province, or country (City of Toronto);
7. Names commemorating local history, places, events, or culture (City of Vancouver); and
8. Names should reflect the name of an event or community contributing significantly to the multicultural diversity of the city (City of Vancouver).

As shown in the above examples, the general themes of culture, heritage, or diversity could all be used to guide naming submissions. These options would align with naming guidelines for municipalities across Canada.

### Further Actions

It is anticipated that the North Commuter Parkway project will yield a significant number of names that can be considered for addition to the Names Master List. These names are anticipated to be available for evaluation by Naming Advisory Committee in the spring of 2018.

The Administration is also pursuing two avenues to better understand why certain communities are under-represented in the naming process. First, the naming policy is being used for a pilot review of policies from an equity lens. This project is in collaboration with Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. and is anticipated to be completed in 2018. Secondly, the Administration will be exploring opportunities to collaborate with organizations that promote intercultural understanding to discuss the naming process, and to solicit submissions.

### **Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement**

No Stakeholders or public involvement was required for this information report.

### **Other Considerations/Implications**

There are no options, policy, financial, environmental, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations; a communication plan is not required at this time.

### **Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion**

Further annual follow-ups on the yield of naming submissions can be provided at the direction of the Committee.

### **Public Notice**

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

### **Attachment**

1. Naming Applications Received

### **Report Approval**

Written by: Daniel McLaren, Planner, Planning and Development  
Reviewed by: Gilles Dorval, Director of Aboriginal Relations  
Reviewed by: Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development  
Approved by: Randy Grauer, General Manager, Community Services Department

S/Reports/2017/PD/Aboriginal Engagement and Inclusion – Naming Process/gs