

City Staff Report

Report Date: January 10, 2019
Meeting Date: January 14, 2019

To: City Manager
From: Economic Development Officer
Subject: Lhtako Dene Indigenous Cultural Centre

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee about the Lhtako Dene Indigenous Cultural Centre.

Summary

The City of Quesnel has been working with Lhtako Dene Nation to develop a concept for an Indigenous Cultural Centre. The City has hired Formline Architecture to create pre-design drawings of the centre, based on consultation with Lhtako Dene Council, Elders, and community members.

Pending successful grant applications, the cultural centre will be built on the site of a significant historic settlement of Lhtako Dene, at the confluence of the Quesnel and Fraser Rivers. This is also the site of first contact with European explorers and settlers.

The idea for the centre sprouted from discussions between Lhtako Dene Nation and the City of Quesnel which led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments. The Centre will hold and display repatriated artifacts from Lhtako Dene history in their traditional territory, in order to share their history and culture with their community, the North Cariboo community, and visitors from around the world.

Lhtako Dene members have expressed the importance that the centre be a gathering place for the broader community, and a 250-seat assembly space has been included in the design.

Also included is an art gallery/gift shop area, and café.

The concept for the structure of the centre resembles a grouping of pit houses, which are historically significant to Lhtako Dene. The concept includes a living roof, giving the impression that the existing park has been lifted to cover the pit house structures. Visitors to the centre will be able to walk along a path leading up and over the centre. The Riverfront Trail has also been taken into consideration and will continue to pass through this area.

Recommendation

THAT the North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee recommend that the Cariboo Regional District Board of Directors provide a letter of support for the Lhtako Dene application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure grant – Rural and Northern Communities stream for the Lhtako Dene Indigenous Cultural Centre project.

Financial Implications

The City of Quesnel is supporting Lhtako Dene Nation in their application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure grant – Rural and Northern Communities stream.

Background

The Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Rural and Northern Communities stream is available to communities with populations of 25,000 or less, and is jointly funded by the federal and provincial government. Up to \$95 million is available in this intake. The application deadline is January 23, 2019.

Indigenous Ultimate Recipients may receive up to 100% funding for off-reserve projects. The Ultimate Recipient must be the owner of the project.



Attachments

Indigenous Cultural Centre Pre-Design Study