

### Fred Sasakamoose Commemorative Sculpture

#### ISSUE

The Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation, Battleford Agency Tribal Chiefs and Synergy 8 Community Builders submitted a joint application for commemoration to the City of Saskatoon (City) for a commemorative sculpture of Mr. Fred Sasakamoose, to be located on the grounds of the SaskTel Centre.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the General Manager, Community Services Department, dated April 19, 2021 be forwarded to City Council recommending:

1. That SaskTel Centre be approved as the location for a Fred Sasakamoose commemorative sculpture;
2. That the Fred Sasakamoose commemorative sculpture be accepted into the City's public art collection as a donation; and
3. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the necessary donation agreement between the donor, Synergy 8 Community Builders, and the City of Saskatoon and that His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement under the Corporate Seal.

#### BACKGROUND

Commemorations contribute to Saskatoon's urban landscape. These sculptures, monuments, artworks, or commemorations describe connections to the past, express community and individual values, contribute to telling stories and help to create a sense of place. In response to the importance that community places have on commemoration, Administration developed a comprehensive policy to govern requests for commemorative art, statues and monuments in Saskatoon. In response to the importance that community places have on commemoration, Administration developed a comprehensive policy to govern requests for commemorative art, sculptures and monuments in Saskatoon. Policy C09-038, Commemorations and Monuments Policy, was adopted by City Council in May 2013.

#### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation, Battleford Agency Tribal Chiefs and Synergy 8 Community Builders (Applicant) submitted a joint application for commemoration to the City for a commemorative sculpture of Mr. Fred Sasakamoose to be located outside the primary entrance to the SaskTel Centre.

Mr. Fred Sasakamoose was one of the first Indigenous players in the National Hockey League (NHL) and the first NHL player with treaty status. After his playing career, he became a band councillor of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation serving 35 years, including 6 years as Chief. Mr. Sasakamoose was extensively involved in the development of sports programs for Indigenous children and was named a member of the Saskatchewan

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Sports Hall of Fame, the Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame, and a Member of the Order of Canada in 2018.

The Applicant is proposing a slightly larger-than-life-size bronze sculpture of approximately eight feet to be placed outside and in front of the main entrance to the SaskTel Centre (see Appendix 1). The sculpture has not yet been fabricated. The Board of Directors of the SaskTel Centre is supportive of such a sculpture at this location.

As per the Commemorations and Monuments Policy, a Commemoration Review Committee (Committee) was struck to assess whether the subject for commemoration, Mr. Fred Sasakamoose, was of significant meaning, importance, and relevance to the community of Saskatoon and if the location was suitable. The Committee was unanimous in its recommendation and noted that Mr. Sasakamoose's legacy is not only of local but of provincial and national significance and the requested location for the sculpture was ideal. The Committee also noted that this commemoration is in keeping with Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action number 87, Sports and Reconciliation: *We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.*

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of fabricating the sculpture is to be borne by the Applicant. The Applicant has estimated the value of the sculpture to be \$180,000. The dedication ceremony, tentatively scheduled for October 2021, is to be organized and funded by the Applicant. As the City is being asked to accept the sculpture as a donation, the ongoing maintenance would be a City responsibility. For a bronze sculpture of this size, the annual cost would be less than \$250 and can be accommodated within the existing public art maintenance budget.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

Subject to City Council approval, key terms in the donation agreement will be as follows:

- The donor would be solely responsible to contract with the artist and/or fabricator and to receive and then deliver and install the artwork at SaskTel Centre.
- Upon receiving the artwork, the City would then become the owner of the artwork and the artist would retain copyright.
- Upon receipt and installation, the City would be responsible to insure the artwork and add it to the City's inventory of public art.
- The donor would receive recognition for their contribution through a suitable plaque affixed to or near the artwork.
- The donor or the City could use photos of the artwork to promote their participation in the project or generally, subject to no party using the same for a commercial purpose.

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- The City would agree with the donor for the initial location for the artwork, however, if the requirements of the site or other reasons require it, the City would be able to relocate the artwork to another equally suitable location.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval, the City Solicitor will prepare the necessary donation agreement between the donor and the City of Saskatoon. At the appropriate time, there is a requirement that the Public Art Advisory Committee review the design for its artistic merit.

### **APPENDICES**

1. Proposed Location for Fred Sasakamoose Commemorative Sculpture

### **REPORT APPROVAL**

Written by: Kevin Kitchen, Community Development Manager  
Will Lofdahl, Chief Executive Officer, SaskTel Centre

Reviewed by: Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager Community Services  
Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager

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