



GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Motion – Councillor D. Kirton – Renaming of John A. Macdonald Road

Recommendation of the Committee

1. That the Administration begin the process for the renaming of John A. Macdonald Road as a way to acknowledge the on-going harm in the community experienced by the IRSS and the role that John A. Macdonald played in this part of history;
2. That the renaming process include public education and public engagement including:
 - Consultation with Indigenous community leaders, residential school survivors and Elders and Knowledge Keepers;
 - Direct communication with John A. Macdonald Road residents;
 - Informing Confederation Park neighbourhood residents;
 - A wider community public education campaign; and
 - A look at options to manage any costs of changing names and what tools could be used to facilitate a change; and
3. That the Administration report back not later than Quarter 4 of 2021 and include information related to the proposed Legacy Review currently being developed.

History

The Governance and Priorities Committee, at its meeting held on June 21, 2021, considered the following motion put forward from Councillor David Kirton:

“Whereas John A. Macdonald played a significant role in the design, development and the implementation of Canada’s Indian residential school system (IRSS);

Whereas the IRSS was a systematic, government-sponsored attempt to destroy Indigenous cultures and languages and to assimilate Indigenous peoples so they no longer existed as distinct peoples;

Whereas the IRSS was responsible for the hunger, neglect, abuse and deaths of thousands of Indigenous children;

Whereas Indigenous families today are still struggling with pain, grief, loss and inter-generational trauma the IRSS has caused;



GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Whereas a street located in the Confederation Park neighbourhood is named John A. Macdonald Road;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Administration begin the process for the renaming of John A. Macdonald Road as a way to acknowledge the on-going harm in the community experienced by the IRSS and the role that John A. Macdonald played in this part of history;

Be it further resolved that the renaming process will include public education and public engagement including:

- Consultation with Indigenous community leaders, residential school survivors and Elders and Knowledge Keepers;
- Direct communication with John A. Macdonald Road residents;
- Informing Confederation Park neighbourhood residents;
- A wider community public education campaign; and
- A look at options to manage any costs of changing names and what tools could be used to facilitate a change

Finally, be it resolved that the Administration report back not later than Quarter 4 of 2021 and include information related to the proposed Legacy Review currently being developed.”

Your Committee received [four delegations and 62 emails/letters](#) submitting comments, and respectfully submits the above recommendation.