

## **Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Urban Reserve Creation**

### **ISSUE**

This report provides City Council with the proposed content of the Municipal Services and Compatibility Agreement between the City of Saskatoon and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. This is required as part of the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement and the Additions to Reserve Policy prior to land being set apart as entitlement reserve in an Urban Municipality.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That City Council approve the proposed content of the Municipal Services and Compatibility Agreement; and
2. That His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement.

### **BACKGROUND**

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation owns the land located at 125 Aspen Place in the Sutherland area in Saskatoon. Muskeg Lake Cree Nation wishes to have 125 Aspen Place designated as an Urban Reserve.

The Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement and the Additions to Reserve Policy requires that where a First Nation requests that land in an Urban Municipality be granted reserve status, the First Nation and the Urban Municipality negotiate an Agreement for the provision and payment of municipal services as compensation to the Urban Municipality for loss of taxes, levies or grants-in-lieu, which, but for the setting apart of the Entitlement Reserve, could reasonably have been expected to have been received by the Urban Municipality. The Agreement is also to speak to compatibility of bylaws, including application and enforcement, as well as consideration of a dispute resolution process.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The Agreement with Muskeg Lake Cree Nation is very similar to the Agreements that exist for other Urban Reserves in Saskatoon and consist of two main features:

1. The City agrees to provide all regular City services to the property in return for an annual fee-for-service payment from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. This payment will be calculated to be the same amount in each year as would be paid in municipal and library property taxes if the land was subject to municipal taxation.

The City services provided to the land are of the same type and level that is provided to all similarly zoned land in a similar state of development in the City.

This amount includes local improvement charges, Business Improvement District levies and any other special charges or levies that would be permitted as if the land were not reserve land.

2. The Agreement requires bylaw compatibility. The parties agree that the occupation, use, development, and improvement of the property will, at all times, be essentially the same as similarly zoned properties in the City.

The bylaw compatibility of the land speaks to matters such as land use and zoning compatibility; building standards, including consideration of building development permits as well as plan examination and site inspections; fire standards, including fire inspections and emergency services; public health and safety; and business regulations.

The overall intent of the Agreement is to recognize and respect the separate jurisdiction of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation while also recognizing the need for cooperation and coordination between Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and the City.

A Police Services Agreement for the property is also necessary and requires approval by the Board of Police Commissioners. This was considered and approved at a meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners on September 19, 2024.

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation's Chief and Council will approve the necessary Agreements through a Band Council Resolution prior to execution of both Agreements.

We are pleased to provide the proposed Municipal Services and Compatibility Agreement to City Council in support of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. If granted reserve status by the Federal Government, this will mark the 12<sup>th</sup> urban reserve within the boundaries of Saskatoon.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial, legal, social or environmental implications identified.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Once approved by the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief and Band Council and Saskatoon City Council, we will touch base with Muskeg Lake Cree Nation to discuss a signing ceremony in the future.

Report Approval

Written by: Jodi Manastyrski, Deputy City Solicitor

Approved by: Cindy Yelland, City Solicitor