



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** February 7, 2020
From: Marie Fenwick **File:** 11-7000-01/2020-Vol
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services 01
Re: **City Events Strategy Guiding Principles**

Staff Recommendation

That the City Events Strategy Guiding Principles, as presented in the staff report titled “City Events Strategy Guiding Principles”, dated February 7, 2020, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services be endorsed to guide the development of a City Events Strategy.

Marie Fenwick
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
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REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

At the Special Council meeting on December 18, 2019, staff presented the report titled “Referral Response: Proposed Plan for Major Events and Programs in 2020” dated November 5, 2019 from the Director Arts, Culture and Heritage Services. The proposed 2020 program was approved in addition to the following staff recommendation:

That the development of a new City Events Strategy as outlined in the staff report titled "Referral Response: Proposed Plan for Major Events and Programs in 2020" dated November 5, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.

This report proposes guiding principles and next steps for Council’s consideration that will inform the development of a City Events Strategy that will serve as a guiding document for event planning for the next five years.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #3 One Community Together:

Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.

3.1 Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony.

3.2 Enhance arts and cultural programs and activities.

3.3 Utilize an interagency and intercultural approach to service provision.

3.4 Celebrate Richmond's unique and diverse history and heritage.

Analysis

Background

The City of Richmond has a long history of hosting a wide variety of events. Events enrich the lives of residents by providing opportunities for the community to connect, learn, and celebrate together. They contribute to social and economic well-being, build community capacity and a sense of identity, and raise the profile of Richmond regionally, nationally and internationally. City events provide opportunities to highlight civic investment in infrastructure, such as parks and historic sites, and for local government representatives to publically recognize community volunteers and to connect with residents.

The City of Richmond invests in events in various capacities: as a supporter and regulator of community produced events through the Richmond Event Approval Coordination Team (REACT) application process, as a funder through the City’s grant programs (Neighbourhood Celebration Grants, Arts and Culture Grants, and Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants), and as a producer or co-producer of signature events including the Children’s Arts Festival, the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Steveston Salmon Festival, the Richmond Maritime

Festival, Farm Fest and the Richmond World Festival. All events, large and small, contribute to a vibrant and diverse community.

In April 2007, Council approved the *2007-2012 Major Events Plan* to guide the development of events up to, including and shortly after the 2010 Olympic Games. In the eight years since the 2012 sunset date of this Plan, the City has successfully supported and produced a number of events. Traditional events such as the Steveston Salmon Festival and Richmond Maritime Festival have grown and evolved. New events such as the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Richmond World Festival have animated the community with new event themes, locations and programs. Canada 150 in 2017, provided opportunities for special events, including Ships to Shore: Kaiwo Maru and the Pioneer Luncheon.

With the recent adoption of several new strategies that are relevant to events, it is now time for the City to review and consider its approach to events for the Richmond of today and tomorrow.

Community Profile

Richmond is home to a rich array of amenities and facilities, engaged citizens and community organizations in a vibrant natural setting. The City's natural assets complement the community's active lifestyle, which is supported by strong policies, plans and programs related to arts, culture, heritage, sport, recreation and social development.

The fourth largest city in the Metro Vancouver area, Richmond's population continues to grow with a high number of new residents born outside of Canada. Known for its rich ethnic diversity, the majority of Richmond residents identify as non-Caucasian. This is the highest proportion of any municipality in B.C., and the second highest in Canada. A great variety of languages are spoken in Richmond overall. Richmond's population is also highly mobile. Almost half of City residents (43%) have moved within the past five years, with half having moved within Richmond.

Richmond is also marked by a changing age distribution. According to 2016 census data, the city is home to approximately 63,000 people 55 years and older, representing 32% of the total population. Children 14 years and younger total approximately 27,000 people, representing 14% of the population.

Sector Trends and Impacts

The *Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024*, endorsed by Council on July 8, 2019, presented information about the broader context and trends in Canada's cultural industry that are expected to have a significant influence on event programming over the next five years.

Key trends include:

- Festivals and events lead as Canadians' top form of participation in arts and culture;
- A shift from passive consumption of arts and culture to more participatory arts experiences;
- Creating safe and inclusive spaces for community dialogue through the arts;
- New operating models that are more entrepreneurial in nature;
- Venues and programming that offer arts experiences for families;

- Creative placemaking and co-activations of spaces; and
- With further capacity-building within community groups, a shift in the City's role to be more of a facilitator and convener than a direct-supplier of services.

Relevant Council Approved Plans and Strategies

Community events have the capacity to support and advance several Council-approved plans and strategies. The proposed guiding principles support and advance the following Council-approved plans and strategies.

Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022

City events contribute to Strategy #3 *One Community Together - Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.*

- *3.1 Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony.*
- *3.2 Enhance arts and cultural programs and activities.*
- *3.3 Utilize an interagency and intercultural approach to service provision.*
- *3.4 Celebrate Richmond's unique and diverse history and heritage.*

Cultural Harmony Plan 2019-2029

City Events have the ability and contribute to advancing the vision adopted in this plan - *"That Richmond residents recognize and respect diversity in the community and enable each individual's contributions in all aspects of community life."*

Specific actions include:

- *Continue to recognize and celebrate Richmond's diverse cultures and unique heritage through intercultural celebrations and festivals;*
- *Incorporate criteria into the City Grant programs and events that facilitate intercultural interaction and promote intercultural understanding; and*
- *Strengthen relationships with various cultural and ethnic communities in order to integrate their arts, culture and heritage practices into the City's programs and events.*

Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024

During the community engagement stage of the development of the Arts Strategy, free public events topped the list of key focus areas identified by the public. Additionally, events have significant potential to advance the Vision of the Arts Strategy which states:

- *Richmond's thriving arts scene:*
 - *Animates our city everyday;*
 - *Offers rich arts education and experiences, festivals and events;*
 - *Fosters social connections and wellness;*
 - *Builds arts and culture leadership; and*
 - *Provides creative spaces.*

Specific actions include:

- *Review the City's offerings of free and low-cost arts programming and events, and assess required City resources to keep cost barriers low.*
- *Develop or expand opportunities to directly support individual artists, cultural organizations and venues that provide low and no cost public program delivery.*
- *Offer and encourage arts engagement opportunities in spaces beyond the walls of traditional venues including unconventional spaces.*
- *Connect with the diverse cultural communities of Richmond (including faith-based communities) to encourage sharing of art, food and music.*
- *Continue to grow and deepen the programming of the Richmond World Festival as a showcase of Richmond's cultural and ethnic diversity.*
- *Invite diverse groups, including those typically underrepresented, to participate in the telling of their story in the Richmond context, through creative engagement and art.*
- *Support and program art-making demonstrations in the public realm.*
- *Invite the public "behind the scenes" and to create things themselves, through programming including events like Doors Open Richmond, Instrument Petting Zoo, Culture Days and Children's Arts Festival.*
- *Invite diverse groups, including those typically underrepresented, to participate in the telling of their story in the Richmond context, through creative engagement and art.*
- *Use Public Art and cultural programming to reimagine public spaces with an eye to creative placemaking.*

City of Richmond Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023

The Richmond Community Wellness Strategy vision "*Richmond... active, caring, connected, healthy and thriving*" recognizes that well communities engage in collective action, are inclusive, respectful and celebrate diversity. Consultation demonstrated that community members saw ongoing events as a means to build a sense of belonging and community connectedness.

The focus area of the strategy that supports events is:

- *Enhance Physical and social connectedness within and among neighbourhoods and communities.*

City of Richmond Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019-2024

The focus area of the strategy that supports events is:

- *Active People and Vibrant Places: Natural and built environments within neighbourhoods in Richmond encourage connectedness and participation in recreation and sport.*

City Events Strategy Guiding Principles

In the context of current Council approved plans and strategies, and a review of the existing program of events, the following guiding principles are proposed for Council's consideration.

The City Events Strategy will:

1. Build local capacity by prioritizing and investing in community-driven events.
2. Provide opportunities for Richmond residents and community groups to collaborate, contribute and participate.
3. Maximize social benefits to the community by fostering volunteerism and increasing sense of community pride and belonging.
4. Celebrate local themes and include programming that is uniquely Richmond.
5. Advance the City's environmental sustainability goals.
6. Ensure events are safe, well-organized and sustainably funded.
7. Encourage and support the development of unique events with a regional draw that bring economic and community benefit, and raise the profile of Richmond.

Next Steps

Pending Council endorsement of these guiding principles, staff will proceed with a review of existing data and engage in targeted stakeholder consultation to ensure the needs of the community are reflected in the City Events Strategy.

The review and consultation will occur in Q2 and Q3 2020 and consist of:

- An analysis of 2019 and 2020 visitor survey results and economic impact data;
- An analysis of community engagement results from the Richmond Arts Strategy; and
- Key stakeholders will be consulted to seek feedback on how the Guiding Principles can be implemented.

Following this community engagement phase, staff will report back to Council in Q4 2020 with:

- Five year events strategy;
- Event evaluation criteria and methodology; and
- Five year projected financial impact and funding plan for the proposed strategy.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Events in Richmond contribute to several Council-approved plans and strategies, including advancing the Council-approved strategic direction of "One Community Together." The endorsement of these guiding principles and next steps will allow staff to develop and support a program of events that will serve the community now and into the future.



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To: Mayor and Councillors
From: Jason Kita
Director, Corporate Programs Management Group
Date: February 25, 2020
File: 01-0103-01/CL Vol. 02
Re: **Declaration of Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en People**

This memorandum provides factual information but does not include a recommendation or suggestions for action for the City of Richmond regarding Councillor Wolfe's proposed motion on the "Declaration of Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en People". This memorandum has been prepared to update the Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Management Team and at the Mayor's request, has also been provided to Mayor and Councillors for information purposes only.

Background

- Hereditary Chiefs in the Wet'suwet'en First Nation oppose the Coastal GasLink natural-gas pipeline through their traditional territory. Protests in support of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs have shut down the CN rail network in eastern Canada, suspended most Via Rail passenger service, and temporarily blocked traffic on streets and bridges and at ports in multiple cities, including cities in the Metro Vancouver region.
- The jurisdiction on the pipeline project lies with the Province of BC. Starting in Dawson Creek, BC, the pipeline's route crosses through the Canadian Rockies and other mountain ranges to Kitimat, BC.
- Councillor Wolfe has brought forward a motion to support the Wet'suwet'en people that will be considered at the March 2, 2020 General Purposes Committee meeting.

First Nations Consultation

- According to Coastal GasLink, from 2012 to 2014, during the course of project development, Coastal GasLink consulted with First Nations, communities, landowners and other stakeholders regarding the routing of the pipeline.
- The overall Indigenous consultation record for Coastal GasLink, which included 5,000 interactions with Indigenous people impacted by the pipeline, was submitted to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) as part of the January 2014 application, and was accepted by the EAO and ultimately approved on the issuance of the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC).
- During the period prior to EAO application submission, Coastal GasLink consulted with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW) Hereditary Chiefs on issues relevant to the proposed pipeline project and route.

- The consultation record of this engagement was submitted to the EAO as part of the 2014 application; an application that also included mitigation measures to address concerns raised by the OW.
- All 20 elected band councils along the route, including five elected Wet'suwet'en band councils, have reached benefit agreements with Coastal GasLink. Those councils were created under the Indian Act and have authority over federal First Nations reserves.
- In the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs claim that the Wet'suwet'en people, as represented by their traditional governance structures, have not given permission to Coastal GasLink to enter their traditional unceded territories. Despite the position advanced by the Hereditary Chiefs, the Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled in favour of Coastal GasLink and issued an injunction with enforcement provisions.
- The Wet'suwet'en Nation is organized into five hereditary clans (each with a Hereditary Chief) and 13 houses, or subgroups. Each of those subgroups has the position of house chief, also known as head chief, and secondary leaders known as subchiefs.
- On February 23, 2020, a second Wet'suwet'en hereditary subchief denounced the hereditary leaders publicly and said that they do not speak for the Wet'suwet'en and are neither following nor abiding by Wet'suwet'en law.

BC City Council Motions

- On January 23, 2020, the City of Victoria endorsed the resolution: Declaration of Solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en People. In response, the First Nations LNG Alliance, a collective of First Nations in support of LNG, has publicly expressed disagreement with the City of Victoria commenting on the democratic processes of First Nations.
- On February 11, Port Moody City Council passed a motion calling on the federal and provincial governments to end any attempt at forced removal of non-violent Wet'suwet'en people from their traditional territories.
- On February 18, 2020, Gibsons passed a "general" motion in support of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to determine the uses of land on their unceded territories.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

- UBCM, with over 160 member municipalities, does not have directly relevant policy and has not commented publicly. They are continuing to monitor the issue. The mandate of UBCM includes securing united action among members in dealing with all matters of common municipal interest. Municipalities, as creatures of the Province, receive their legislative authority from the provincial government.
- To date, only three member municipalities have commented publicly on the issue.

Federal Responses

- On February 21, 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau said in a press conference "every attempt at dialogue has been made but discussions have not been productive. We cannot have dialogue when only one party is coming to the table. The fact remains: the barricades must now come down. The injunctions must be obeyed and the law must be upheld."
- As of February 21, 2020, offers from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett and the Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller to meet with

Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to address immediate and long-term issues had not yet been accepted.

- On February 21, 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair emphasized the critical importance of police independence to ensure trust in our institutions. With RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki, Minister Blair updated the Prime Minister and ministers on current RCMP operations, including their offer to withdraw from Wet'suwet'en territory to encourage an open dialogue.

Provincial Responses

- On February 21, 2020, Premier John Horgan responded to media saying the Coastal GasLink project will not be halted or cancelled.
- On February 20, 2020, Provincial premiers held a teleconference with Prime Minister Trudeau to discuss the disruptions to infrastructure across the country caused by blockades, and their impacts on Canadian farmers, businesses, families, and workers. The Prime Minister spoke with the Premiers about the importance of ending the blockades as quickly as possible and reaching a peaceful and lasting resolution, in a way that builds trust and respect among all parties involved. To that effect, the Prime Minister highlighted the close collaboration between his Government and the BC Government on this complex issue.
- On February 17, 2020, the BC Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser and the Federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett reached out through a joint letter to the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs about meeting at the earliest opportunity to work together to establish a process for ongoing and constructive dialogue and action to address the issues at hand.

Court Issued Injunctions

- On December 31, 2019, a BC Supreme Court judge issued an injunction against members of the Wet'suwet'en Nation blocking access to the pipeline project inside their traditional territory and empowered RCMP to enforce the injunction.
- On February 13, 2020, the BC Legislature was granted an injunction to prevent protesters from blocking doorways and preventing the everyday work at the Legislature.
- On February 15, 2020, BC Ferries was granted a pre-emptive court injunction to prohibit Wet'suwet'en solidarity protesters from blocking any of its terminals.
- On February 19, 2020, TransLink was granted an injunction to block protesters from all SkyTrain platforms. The injunction will not prevent protests from blocking municipally and provincially owned roadways. "While TransLink supports the right to peaceful protest, the safety of our customers and our staff is our priority and we must protect the hundreds of thousands of people who rely on the Expo, Millennium, and Canada Lines," said the agency in a media release.
- On February 24, 2020, Ontario Provincial Police moved to enforce an injunction aimed at clearing the rail blockade in Ontario.

City of Richmond RCMP

- The RCMP in Richmond has sent one member to assist with the Province's RCMP operations, during the first week of the blockade. No RCMP Richmond members are currently deployed, and the RCMP does not foresee any further deployment in the near

term. Members will only be deployed if service delivery in the community is not impacted.

City of Richmond Relationships with Federal and Provincial Governments

- If the motion is interpreted by the federal and/or provincial governments to imply that senior levels of government are not handling the issue properly and that the government should halt the project and consult with the Wet'suwet'en people, this could create friction between senior levels of government and the City of Richmond. Consultation by Coastal GasLink was conducted during the planning phase of the project, and the project was accepted by all 20 elected band councils along the route. Determining which parties have authority to give approval to the project is outside of municipal scope and jurisdiction.
- Furthermore, there is no direct impact to the City of Richmond and its residents should the pipeline proceed.
- Adopting an opposing position to construct the pipeline (endorse the motion) could impede the City of Richmond from taking necessary positions in the future and could have direct impacts on the community.
- Public comment on the conduct of the federal and provincial governments on matters outside of the City of Richmond's direct interest and jurisdiction may negatively impact the City's relationship with its provincial and federal partners and could result in serious consequences when applying for future senior levels of government funding.



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Anthony Capuccinello Iraci, City Solicitor