

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 13, 2018
FROM:	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 18-22 – DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN INDIGENOUS-LED LICENSED CHILD CARE AND FAMILY CENTRE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, with the concurrence of the Director of Financial Services, the following report with respect to the Request for Proposal 18-22 – Design, Construction and Operation of an Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and Family Centre, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- The Journey Together Early Years Transfer Payment Agreement, February 22, 2017

BACKGROUND

In May 2016, the Government of Ontario released *The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples*. This document is the Provincial government's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final report (December, 2015), which outlines calls to action in the areas of child welfare, education, language and culture, health, and justice. Through The Journey Together the Province committed to actions that "increase the number of licensed child care spaces and culturally relevant programming off-reserve."

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the City of London's procurement process to identify a successful proponent to design, construct and operate an Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre in London.

The City of London's Journey Together Initiative

In response to The Journey Together initiative, in 2017, the City of London partnered with N'Amerind Friendship Centre to engage Indigenous families and service providers about their experiences with child care and family support programs. A number of Indigenous-led organizations and early years providers in London and Middlesex County supported the engagement process, including: Atlohosa Native Family and Healing Centre, NoKee Kwe and Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC). Upon completion of the preliminary engagement, Indigenous-led organizations and allies were invited to listen to the information that had been gathered from families to collaboratively plan for a proposal to the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Education that would "increase the number of licensed child care spaces and culturally relevant programming off-reserve."

Through the engagement process, Indigenous families expressed that access to culturally relevant, quality Indigenous-led programming that supports families is critical. Families shared that they want:

- to learn their language and culture together with their children;
- a place where all Nations are welcomed; and,
- a place to call their own.

Indigenous families and service providers also identified that culturally safe spaces are needed in order to increase access to quality early years programming, and that culturally relevant programming needs to be made available. Indigenous service providers expressed that adequate space to provide quality early years programming is not available, and that the system of supports for Indigenous children and families in the community doesn't have any additional capacity.

Results from the engagement process informed a request to the Ministry of Education to support the development of an Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre to serve families in London and Middlesex County. The request, submitted by the City of London

in its role as Service System Manager, was developed in partnership with an Indigenous Planning Committee including representation from local Indigenous-led organizations, Indigenous parents and caregivers, and other relevant planning partners.

The City of London was successful in receiving one time operational and capital funding to support the development of an Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre through two provincial funding envelopes: The Journey Together and The Community Based Capital Program (CBCP).

All funding must be exhausted and the capital project completed by December 31, 2020.

Procurement Process

The City of London in consultation with the Indigenous Planning Committee undertook a competitive process to identify an organization to design, construct and operate the facility. It is important to note that the funds for The Journey Together initiative are explicitly to be used by Indigenous-led organizations to provide culturally relevant early years programs and services.

Request for Proposal (RFP) 18-22 was released on May 30, 2018 through Purchasing and Supply, with a closing date of July 30, 2018. One bid was received by the deadline; it being noted that this is an Irregular Result (Section 19.4) according to the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy. With the concurrence of the Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services and the Manager of Purchasing and Supply, the single bid was opened. An evaluation committee comprised of representatives from the Indigenous Planning Committee¹, as well as staff from Finance and Corporate Services (Facilities Division) and Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services evaluated the submission against criteria outlined in RFP 18-22. Selection criteria included in the RFP was developed in partnership with the Indigenous Planning Committee. The evaluation concluded that the submission from SOAHAC met the requirements outlined in the Request for Proposal and demonstrated the organizational competency to undertake this initiative.

SOAHAC is an accredited Aboriginal Health Access Centre (AHAC). AHACs are innovative, Aboriginal specific Indigenous informed health care agencies. They provide a combination of health and social services to First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities. They operate from a wholistic Aboriginal Health framework which is often referred to by Indigenous people as “the good life” or as restoring the “good mind”. In addition to healthcare, SOAHAC has experience in construction and design and using a wholistic approach to support the health and wellbeing of families.

SOAHAC will undertake the following general activities to design, construct and operate the Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Center:

- Capital: Construct an 88 space licensed child care that is co-located with an EarlyON child and family centre that is Indigenous -led, meets the licensing requirements of all applicable bodies, and is reflective of the needs of Indigenous members of the community.
- Operation: Operate an 88 space licensed child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre that is culturally relevant, based in Spirit and language, and provides culturally relevant EarlyON Child and Family Centre programs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Province of Ontario has committed \$5,245,000 in capital funding through The Journey Together and Community Based Capital Program for the design and construction of the Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre for 2018-2019. In addition, the Province has committed an additional \$605,018 in operational funding to support project related costs between 2018 and 2020.

SECTION 275 OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT

With the results from the 2018 Municipal Election, the City Clerk has determined that the “lame duck” provisions of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, are applicable. By-law No. A-7728-216, PASSED in Open Council on June 12, 2018, authorizing the delegation of authority to the City Manager for certain acts of Council after Nomination Day for the 2018 Municipal Election including the

¹ Note selection of the evaluation committee followed Purchasing and Supply conflict of interest protocols.

following sections:

- 5.2 the City Manager shall be authorized to approve the execution of any agreements or other documents required to give effect to any expenditure or liability incurred under the authority delegated in part 5.1 or 5.3, and to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute any agreement to effect same, in consultation with the City Solicitor's Office, where approval of Council would otherwise be required; and,
- 5.3. without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the City Manager shall be authorized to approve the execution of the agreements listed in Schedule 2, including soliciting a proponent through a Request for Proposal for the design, construction and operation of an licensed Indigenous led Child Care and Family Centre, to this By-law, where in the absence of this by-law, approval would be required by Council, as well as any property acquisition when the timely acquisition of real of personal property is adjudged by the City Manager to be necessary advantageous.

As per the provisions of By-law No. A-7728-216, The City Manager has taken the following actions:

- a) AWARDED the Request for Proposal 18-22: Design, Construction and Operation of an Indigenous-led Licenced Child Care and Family Centre to Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC); it being noted that the proposal submitted by SOAHAC was the only bid received resulting in an irregular bid which was deemed to meet the City's requirements in all areas; and is in compliance with the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- b) APPROVED the Project and Funding Agreement between The Corporation of the City of London and SOAHAC, for funding in the total amount of \$5,850, 018 to design, construct and operate an Indigenous-led Licenced Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre;
- c) AUTHORIZED the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Project and Funding Agreement between the Corporation of the City of London and SOAHAC, for funding in the total amount of \$5,850, 018 to design, construct and operate an Indigenous-led Licenced Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre; and,
- d) AUTHORIZED Civic Administration to undertake all administrative acts which are necessary in relation to this project.

CONCLUSION

The Journey Together initiative has ignited an important conversation in our community. It has brought Indigenous leaders, service providers, and families together to discuss and better understand the challenges faced by Indigenous Families in London and Middlesex County. Through this initiative, Indigenous families expressed that access to culturally relevant, quality Indigenous-led programming that supports families is critical. Families want to learn their language and culture together with their children; they want a place where all Nations are welcomed, and they want a place to call their own.

This initiative closely aligns to Council's 2015 -2019 Strategic Plan by supporting a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community, as well as supporting a healthy, safe and accessible city for all families in London. It also supports London's Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy which identifies taking meaningful steps towards Reconciliation as a priority.

The Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre will have meaningful impact on the lives of children and families in London and Middlesex County. It will create an additional 88 child care spaces for Indigenous children that are not currently available. It will offer early years programming based in Spirit and Language and it will serve as a place for Indigenous families to gather and learn together with their children.

This project just one step in moving towards Reconciliation grounded in joint leadership, trust building, accountability and transparency.

This report acknowledges and thanks the Indigenous Planning Table for their commitment to improving outcomes for Indigenous children and families in London and Middlesex County. This project would not be possible without the Planning Committee's ongoing guidance and support. The Indigenous Planning Committee includes Indigenous parents and caregivers as well as representatives from: At'lohso Native Family and Healing Centre, Children's Aid Society of

London and Middlesex, City of London, Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, County of Middlesex, Fanshawe College, First Nations Centre at Fanshawe, London Children's Connection, London Bridge, London Family Court Clinic, Métis Nation of Ontario, N'Amerind Indigenous Friendship Centre, Nokee Kwe, Schulich School of Medicine, SOAHAC, Thames Valley District School Board, as well as representatives from programs and services supporting families in Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames and the Munsee Delaware Nation.

This report acknowledges the support of the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

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- C. Kyle Murray, Director, Financial Planning & Business Support
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