

ADDENDUM TO DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY REPORT

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Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

June 15, 2021

RESOLUTIONS

12. County of Renfrew Garden of Reconciliation

Recommendation: THAT the Development and Property Committee recommend to the Finance and Administration Committee that County Council adopt a resolution to direct staff to investigate options to design and initiate a Reconciliation Garden project on the grounds of the County Administration Building to honour and recognize the individual and collective rights and fundamental freedoms of all people to live in a state of dignity and respect which should be the foundation of our relationship with First Nations.

Background

Since 2019, the County of Renfrew has been engaged with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan through a Memorandum of Understanding; primarily for opportunities that are economic development focused.

To move beyond this partnership, acknowledging that the business of the County of Renfrew takes place on the unceded territory of the Algonquin People, and to further efforts towards Truth and Reconciliation with the Algonquin People, County staff is seeking direction on a partnership project that would create a lasting legacy of our relationship.

The project would be led by an ad hoc committee of County Council members and representatives from the Algonquins. Its terms of reference would include extensive consultation with all stakeholders, ultimately leading to a design competition using set guidelines and strategic direction.

Designed to grow over time, the Garden would depict Truth and Reconciliation's teachings of truth, humility, honesty, wisdom, respect, courage and love. The garden could feature a piece of Indigenous art, traditional plants, medicines and herbs, a storyboard, benches, etc. It could be a place of healing, where people could learn together, participate in traditional ceremonies and reflect.

The Reconciliation Garden plans would be presented to County Council for final approval, ultimately leading to the procurement of landscape design services.

With County Council endorsement, County of Renfrew staff will also seek out funding sources, including through Federal and Provincial Governments, for legacy and community recognition projects as well as consult with the 2022 Ontario Winter Games Advisory Committee for possible funds through its legacy project.

It is expected that, if approved, the construction of the Garden would begin in the Spring of 2022.