



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 10, 2022

Title: Working Circle Member Appointments

Prepared By: Roger Nesbitt, CAO

Department: Administration

Report Number: Administration-2022-005

Recommendation:

That City of Dryden Council appoint the City's Special Projects and Communication Manager, Marshalina Reader, and the City's Youth Leadership & Service-Learning Intern, Abigail Marion, to the Working Circle, being a Committee of Council.

Background:

In July of 2020, City Council approved the formation of the Working Circle with a mandate to develop joint recommendations to Council to achieve the City's strategic Plan goals related to strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Related Strategic Plan Goals and Priorities:

Strategic Priorities:

2.1 Goal: Community Diversity and Inclusion

1.0 "Develop support systems to welcome and familiarize new and existing citizens to the City of Dryden" (not all of whom may be Indigenous)

2.0 "Continue to foster positive relationships with Indigenous peoples and neighbouring First Nations communities"

2.5 Goal: Economic and Investment Diversity

7.0 "Partner with Indigenous organizations and communities and other organizations to foster local and regional economic growth"

The Working Circle will fulfill their scope through engagement with City of Dryden Indigenous residents, organizations, visitors and neighboring First Nation communities, the Working Circle will strive to:

- Identify issues important to Dryden's Indigenous population. These would include things such as lifestyle issues, social issues, amenities Indigenous people are seeking and other issues impacting experiences living in the community.
- Develop recommendations for City Council and City staff on strategies, outcomes and action items the City could adopt to improve the experience of Indigenous people in Dryden.
- Identify actions or activities the community could take to bring the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members closer together.
- Identify opportunities for fostering positive relationships between Indigenous peoples and other community members.

The initial membership of the Working Circle included:

Indigenous members:

- Cheryl Edwards
- Lisa Kooshet
- Neil McLeod
- Lloyd Napish
- Ted Mitchell

City Council and Staff members:

- Councillor Norm Bush
- Councillor Shayne MacKinnon
- Councillor Michelle Price
- CAO Roger Nesbitt
- HR Manager Jennifer Peekhaus

Discussion:

In mid-2021, a vacancy on the Working Circle was created with the departure of the City's HR Manager. To fill this vacancy and achieve the goal of the Working Circle to add a youth voice to the committee, the Working Circle is recommending that Abigail Marion and Marshalina Reader be appointed to the Working Circle.

Ms. Marion is currently serving as the City's Youth Leadership & Service-Learning Intern and will be leading the City's Youth Advisory Council. As a member of the youth and Metis communities, Ms. Marion will bring a valued perspective to the Working Circle.

As the City's Special Projects and Communication Manager, Ms. Reader has been heavily involved in the Community Safety and Well-being plan development, ongoing work

around the City's diversity, equity and inclusion strategy, the Community Capacity Study, and other such key strategic initiatives. Ms. Reader also manages and provides mentorship to the Youth Leadership & Service-Learning Intern. Ms. Reader's experience and knowledge will be a tremendous addition to the Working Circle.