



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Subject: COUNCIL MOTION – MICHIF INSTITUTE

On December 14, 2015 Mayor Crouse provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 that he intended to bring forward the following motion:

In order for Council to debate the motion, the motion must be formally moved.

(Mayor Crouse)

That Administration work together with the Michif Cultural and Resource Institute and provide for Council's consideration by Q-3 a proposal for the \$10,000 approved in the 2016 budget, and if the proposal includes the use of Juneau House by Michif, Administration shall provide a proposal in this regard for Council's consideration (lease, stewardship, term etc.)

Attachments:

1. Administrative Backgrounder

Originating Department(s):	Legislative Services
Author(s):	B. Gaskarth, Legislative Officer
City Manager Signature:	Date:

**Administrative Backgrounder
Michif Institute**

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BACKGROUND:

In the spring 2015, the Michif relocated their office to a space in the home of their Office Assistant, and moved the bulk of their resource library and historical artifacts into storage as their leased space the Juneau House was undergoing renovations. Initially it was projected that the Juneau House renovations would be completed by late fall 2015 and the Michif would be back in their space by late 2015, or early 2016. The construction schedule is currently on track for them to be able to return to the Juneau House by Spring, 2016.

While the Michif have no historic connection to the Juneau House, they have found a home in this city asset, for well over fourteen years. The Juneau House has become an established central gathering place for the Michif Institute, including the resource library and the museum collection. Their most recent lease agreement included a provision which offered the Michif "...the first option to enter into a lease for Juneau House following the completion of the renovations." The Michif have continued to be very involved in the progress of the renovations and have verbally provided their intent to return to the Juneau House upon completion of the renovations. Administration is in the process of developing and negotiating a new lease agreement with the Michif.

Administration has been working with the Michif over the past year in the areas of board development, program development, and strategic planning. The knowledge that this group brings, and the resources and programming they provide, promotes awareness, celebration, and value for the heritage and diversity of our community members.

The Michif have received an operating grant through the Outside Agency program in the past. They submitted their business plan, provided an oral presentation to the Community Services Advisory Board and responded to questions regarding their budget and their future plans for 2016. They are in the process of recruiting additional new Board members and are very motivated by the renovations being made to the Juneau House. The budget developed for 2016 was made with the assumption that they would be back in the Juneau House by early 2016.

The Business Plan which the Michif Institute submitted as part of their request for a \$10,000 operating grant, and which was subsequently reviewed by the Community Services Advisory Board is attached. (Attachment A)

Report Date	December 15, 2015
Committee/Department	CPS Admin
General Manager Review	Chris Jardine

2016 Operational Grant Application

A. Name of Outside Agency

The Michif Cultural and Métis Resource Institute

B. Description of Outside Agency's services

The Michif Cultural and Métis Resource Institute houses a Métis specific museum collection and research facility with a one of a kind resource library. We offer Elder resources and specific programming like Aboriginal or Métis specific cultural awareness workshops and classes, traditional moccasin and beading workshops, and hand drum making classes. It is our goal to protect, preserve and promote the Métis history and identity. We have a Facebook page and are working on a website. There has been a part time paid administrator dedicating many more volunteer hours, three Elders, eight Board Members and a fund developer. The *Michif Institute* works with Youth Justice and local schools.

C. Details of municipal financial and municipal in-kind support currently received by the Outside Agency

Operating Grant Funding 2015, *City of St. Albert* \$8000.00

D. Program, activity or project details:

i. How the programs, activities or projects benefit the City and its residents

Programs raise awareness of the Métis, Métis history and cultural appreciation of St. Albert and the surrounding region. All participants will broaden their understanding of the region and its people from experienced teachers and local Elders. It is our hope and intent that they will share their stories and experiences with others.

ii. Number of city residents affected and feedback to date

Approximately five hundred to seven hundred St. Albert and area residents and visitors have experienced programs and special events at the *Michif Institute* each year since its inception. The *Michif Institute* works diligently to ensure that the local population is reached utilizing advertisements and included. We use recognized Elders within the Métis and First Nations communities to ensure participants receive authentic experiences and knowledge.

"It is so spiritual and gentle; It makes me feel like I have a place to belong to."

"I wish we would have learned this when we went to school."

"I had no idea that all this went into making a pair of moccasins."

"Sitting in the circle with Alice and Joyce was better than sitting in the pew at church."

iii. Benefit(s) associated with funding being received

We anticipate that the *Michif Institute* would be able to return to Juneau House to play a role in preserving and interpreting St. Albert's rich Métis history. These unique experiences will enhance St. Albert's tourism. We will promote, protect and preserve Métis culture, and our Canadian History.

iv. Risk(s) associated with funding not being received

If fund support is not provided to assist with operations our Métis specific programming, access to Elders, artifacts and library would not be provided. A sense of place to those who might not have that within their cultural teachings would be missed. Our community holds a rich Canadian history specific to our region. The *Michif Institute* would have a difficult time opening and offering this one of a kind programming. City residents and visitors would be at risk of losing learning opportunities about this unique place and culture. While the history is shared within other St. Albert historical locations, the *Michif's* artifact collection is larger and is presented with a Métis aspect that is not represented in other museums.

v. Details of the programs, activities or projects

Ask an Elder / Métis Tea with an Elder – Weekly, Thursdays 5 - 7 pm
Cultural teachings, spirit animals, healing techniques will be offered.
Participants may request 1:1. Tea, bannock and berries will be served.

Drum Making Workshop and Teachings – Spring & Fall: 2 weekends (Fri-Sun). Participants will make their own drum and stick followed by teachings and history of the drum by Elders.

Moccasin Making Workshop – Fall: 2 weekends (Fri-Sun). Cutting, beading and sewing will be taught. Great stories are shared around the table.

Jigging Classes – Adult – Winter, Spring: 1 weeknight, eight sessions. Traditional Métis music will be provided for this fun workout.

Jigging Classes – Children – Summer over one week from 10am-12pm Monday through Friday. Traditional Métis music will be provided for this fun workout.

Traditional Medicine Teachings – July/August: two days. Outdoors in a pre-planned area with an Elder. Teaching of different medicines and uses; including how to braid sweetgrass.

Smudging Workshop – One day. Participants learn why and how to smudge. The variety of medicines will be taught. Smudge bowl, medicines and matches will be provided.

General Operating Hours for Public – The Michif Institute will be open from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday or by appointment.

2016 Proposed Budget

REVENUE	
Programs	\$16,700.00
Donations	\$ 1,000.00
Silent Auction	\$ 800.00
Mayor's Walk	\$ 500.00
City of St. Albert	\$10,000.00
Canadian Heritage	\$ 1,000.00
Alberta Culture Days	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$30,500.00
EXPENSES	
Part time Program Coordinator and Office Assistant Wages [16hrs/week x 52wks @ \$20]	\$16,640.00
Library Supplies and Support	\$ 500.00
Programming Costs	\$ 3,000.00
Utilities (internet & phone bundle, gas and electricity)	\$ 5,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 600.00
Volunteer Appreciation	\$ 500.00
Bank Monthly Fees	\$ 50.00
Insurance	\$ 2,600.00
Reliance Protection	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL	\$ 30,490.00

The Michif Institute is requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000 for 2016.

i. Deficits will be minimized by the Michif's Institute's banked savings for this purpose.

ii. Update on operating plans for 2016

The *Michif Institute* will focus on preserving Métis cultural heritage through having a resource library, programming and workshops. There will be an administrative board responsible for fundraising, proposal writing, program participation, and assisting with administrative duties.