



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Subject: MICHIF OPERATING GRANT AND LEASE

Recommendation(s)

That the February 1, 2016 agenda report entitled “Michif Operating Grant and Lease”, be approved as the Michif Cultural Resource Institute’s Proposed Plan as requested in Council Postponed Motion 28-2016.

Purpose of Report

To share the Michif Cultural Resource Institute’s Proposed Plan for 2016 with Council, to facilitate the disbursement of the \$10,000 in grant funding approved through the Outside Agency program for the 2016 year.

To provide an update on the renegotiation of the lease agreement with Michif Cultural Resources Institute for their use of Juneau House as per the terms outlined in the existing agreement.

Council Direction

During the budget deliberations council approved the following budget motion;

(PM28-2016)

“That Michif be budgeted for in 2016 in the amount of \$10,000 as per CSAB recommendation, but only subsequent to a Council-approved plan in 2016”.

Background and Discussion

During the past year, Administration has been working with the Michif Cultural Resources Institute (Michif) in the areas of board development, program development, and strategic planning. The Michif has developed a detailed Business Plan for 2016 with a focus on cultural teachings.

The Michif have developed a detailed programming plan that will engage the community while also teach about aboriginal and Métis culture. Programs to be offered will include Smudging, Traditional Medicine Drum and Moccasin Making workshops, as well as, Jigging Classes. Building on cultural traditions they will also be initiating a weekly drop in program, Métis Tea with an Elder. These programs

will share cultural traditions, and assist in protecting and preserving Métis culture in the community.

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 1)

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.

The current Lease agreement states that the Michif have "...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.

Stakeholder Communications or Engagement

- The Michif Cultural Resources Institute should be consulted if changes in the terms for funding, and or lease agreement arrangements are being considered.

Implications of Recommendation(s)

Administration would continue to work with the Michif, providing ongoing advice and guidance, to assist them in their ongoing operations and board and organizational development and preserving aboriginal and Métis culture in the community.

Administration would proceed with the renegotiation and renewal of the Lease Agreement with the Michif for their use of Juneau House.

a) Financial:
None at this time

b) Legal / Risk:
None at this time

c) Program or Service:

The plan developed by the Michif includes programs that will share cultural traditions, and assist in protecting and preserving Métis culture in the community.

The operation of a resource library provides and opportunity to preserve and share the history of our community. The programs and workshops will engage the community through teaching about: Smudging, Traditional Medicine Drum and Moccasin Making and Jigging.

d) Organizational:
No additional impact at this time.

Alternatives and Implications Considered

If Council does not wish to support the recommendation, the following alternatives could be considered:

1. Council could provide alternate direction to Administration based on the information presented.

If Council chose this alternative, Administration would report back to Council based on direction provided.

2. Council could choose not to accept the report as presented, and direct Administration not to renew the lease agreement with the Michif for the use of Juneau House, and instruct Administration to identify an alternate use for the Juneau House Heritage property.

If Council were to select this option it would mean that the Michif would not move back into Juneau House and would need to search for a new space for their office and programs and services. This would likely put the organization at risk and may limit their ability to provide programs about aboriginal and Métis culture to the community.

Administration would also research other alternative uses for Juneau House that would be compatible with its designation as a Municipal Historic Resource.

Strategic Connections

- a) Council's Strategic Outcomes and Priorities (See Policy C-CG-02)
 - **CULTIVATE A HISTORIC, CREATIVE, AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY:** A vibrant and involved community with a variety of culture, recreation and heritage opportunities.
The Aboriginal and Métis people have a significant history in the St. Albert area. The Michif is an organization that can play a key role is assisting to preserve and promote Aboriginal and Métis cultural traditions and history.
 - **CULTIVATE SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES:** A growing community that has balanced development and management of civic facilities, transportation networks and related services.
Juneau House is a designated Municipal Historical Resource; having a community organization such as the Michif operating from this property assists the City in ensuring the protection of this resource, while also assisting a cultural organization.
- b) Long Term Plans (e.g. MDP, Social Master Plan, Cultural Master Plan, etc.)
Cultural Master Plan- supporting the Michif as a cultural organization in the community helps tell the stories of the community, and assists in the development of a community organization.
- c) Corporate Objectives (See Corporate Business Plan)
 - Deliver programs and services that meet or exceed our standards
The Michif has identified a number of programs that will be open to the community. These programs will enhance the public awareness of Aboriginal and Métis cultural traditions.
- d) Council Policies
 - C-CAO-16 - City Owned Building Lease Rates
- e) Other Plans or Initiatives (Business Plans, Implementation Strategies, etc.)
 - N/A

Attachment(s)

1. 2016 Operational Grant/ Business Plan, The Michif Cultural and Métis Resource Institute

Originating Department(s):	Cultural Services
Author(s):	Kelly Jerrott, Director
General Manager Approval:	Chris Jardine, GM, CPS
City Manager Signature:	Date:

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.