



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 11 2020**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** June 9 2020
From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Dubow
Subject: Welcoming Cities Task Force

BACKGROUND

On March 12 Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Welcoming City Task Force (attached) and directed staff to issue a call for participants. A call was issued and is open until Friday June 12th.

At the Council meeting on April 9, 2020, Council decided to put on hold a range of initiatives due to budget constraints from COVID-19 and revisit these on August 6th. The Welcoming Cities Task Force was one of these initiatives.

Given the recent events in the United States and Canada as well as the well-organized and thoughtful responses of Victorians against racism in all forms and the desire to create a welcoming city for everyone, it is recommended that we proceed immediately with the Welcoming City Task Force. This will enable Council to harness the energy, creativity, passion and commitment currently evident in our community to make Victoria a welcoming and safe city for everyone.

The original proposed funding amount for this initiative was \$50,000. This included engaging a consultant, in person meeting costs and stipends for Indigenous members of the Task Force as per the City's protocol and compensation policy. Given that the meetings will all be held online, it is possible to reduce the budget.

There is approximately \$42,800 remaining in the Mayor and Council travel budget for this year, most of which will not be used given travel restrictions and lack of in person conferences. It is recommended that \$40,000 be re-allocated to the Welcoming City Initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council allocated \$40,000 from the Mayor and Council travel budget to the Welcoming Cities Initiative.
2. That Council direct staff to extend the application phase for three more weeks and promote the opportunity to submit applications.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dubow".

Councillor Dubow