



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 14, 2017

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** December 12, 2017
From: Councillor Alto and Mayor Helps
Subject: North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Supporting Motion

BACKGROUND

The Songhees Nation is working with other south Vancouver Island First Nations on a bid for the 2020 North American Indigenous Games.

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are among the largest sporting and cultural gathering of Indigenous Peoples in North America, in recent years hosting more than 5,000 participants, 2,000 volunteers and countless spectators for 14 sport categories.

The vision of the NAIG is to “improve the quality of life for Indigenous Peoples by supporting self-determined sports and cultural activities which encourage equal access to participation in the social / cultural / spiritual fabric of the community in which they reside and which respects Indigenous distinctiveness.”

The Games provides Indigenous youth, aged 13-19, an opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities through 14 sports and to celebrate their heritage through numerous cultural events. Participants have represented all Canadian provinces, more than one third of US states, and over 765 Nations or Tribes.

Vancouver Island hosted the NAIG in Victoria in 1997 and in Cowichan in 2008.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission identified sports, in Calls to Action #87 through 91, and the NAIG specifically, in Call to Action #88, as important paths of Reconciliation.

88. We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

The Songhees Nation is in conversation with the provincial and federal governments, Tourism Victoria, the University of Victoria, Camosun College, Royal Roads University, and corporate and private sponsors. The host Nation (Songhees) must submit an expression of interest by January 12, 2018.

MOTION

That the City of Victoria supports, in principle, a bid by local First Nations for the 2020 North American Indigenous Games, contingent on sustaining funding, as set out by the NAIG Council bid requirements, from the provincial and federal governments.

That once sustaining provincial and federal funding has been confirmed, the City of Victoria enter into conversation with the Host Nation about the details of the City's administrative, in-kind and/or financial support.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Alto


Mayor Helps