

For Information

DATE: June 16, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **MAANJIDOWIN NATIVE POWWOW & METIS RENDEZVOUS 2010**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding an invitation to *Maanjidowin Native Powwow and Métis Rendezvous 2010*.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- *Maanjidowin* is an event organized and led by Heritage Mississauga in partnership with the Credit River Métis Council, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Peel Aboriginal Steering Committee (PASC) through the Region of Peel and other community agencies.
- It will take place on Saturday, July 17th from sunrise to sunset and Sunday, July 18th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at J.C. Saddington Park in Mississauga and admission is free.
- The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and educate Peel residents about the Aboriginal peoples' heritage and culture; celebrate the unique cultures of the First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples, and to reach out to and engage with the Aboriginal community.
- The event is expected to draw 10,000 people over the two days.
- All Council Members are invited to attend the sunrise ceremony at 6:30 a.m., a pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Métis voyageurs arrival on the Mississaugas traditional territory at 11:00 a.m. and the *Grand Entry* - opening ceremony at noon.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

Heritage Mississauga, in conjunction with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and the Credit River Métis, Council has partnered with the City of Mississauga and Peel Aboriginal Steering Committee (PASC) through the Region of Peel to organize the 2010 *Maanjidowin* ("The Gathering") – *Native Powwow and Métis Rendezvous*. *Maanjidowin* will be held on Saturday, July 17th and Sunday, July 18th at J.C. Saddington Park in Mississauga. "Maanjidowin" is the Ojibwa word for "the gathering" and is also the theme of an event that celebrates over 200 Years of History in Mississauga. In 2005, Heritage Mississauga along with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation celebrated the 200th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 13A. Heritage Mississauga has made a commitment to celebrate this event annually.

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Based on the on going increase in community participation at *A Gathering: Peel's Aboriginal Celebration* and *Maanjidowin* 2005, it is anticipated that that this year's event will draw 10,000 people over a two day period. All Members of Council are welcome to attend.

a) Purpose of the *Maanjidowin* Event

Maanjidowin is a free family event organized to raise awareness and educate Peel residents about the Aboriginal peoples' heritage and culture, celebrate the unique cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and to reach out to and engage with the Aboriginal community. Events/celebrations such as the *A Gathering: Peel's Aboriginal Celebration* and *Maanjidowin* encourage the Aboriginal Community to self identify which will assist Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service providers in building culturally appropriate service/program capacity in Peel.

According to the 2006 Statistics Canada Census data there are 5,500 Aboriginal people in Peel that report Aboriginal identity and 11,750 that report Aboriginal ancestry. Inuit make up one per cent of Peel's Aboriginal population and Métis were the fastest growing Aboriginal group in Peel between 2001 and 2006 and make up 30 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Peel. There is no reserve in Peel and up until recently, aboriginals have had no gathering place to provide cultural services/programs. The Aboriginal Community would have to access cultural appropriate services/programs in Toronto or Hamilton.

Currently the Métis Nation of Ontario provides some services to the Aboriginal community in Peel and the Peel Aboriginal Network has established a cultural centre in Brampton to provide cultural activities. In addition, the Credit River Métis Council provides support and activities for the Métis Community and the Region of Peel, Human Services has an Early Childhood Outreach Worker that provides cultural training and support to Early Learning Environment staff, children and their families.

b) Heritage Mississauga

Heritage Mississauga is a not-for-profit charity that works closely with the community on assisted and independent research relating to Mississauga's history and modern developments. Its mandate is to research, record and communicate Mississauga's heritage.

Heritage Mississauga was founded in 1960, by a small group of volunteers. Known then as the Toronto Township Historical Foundation, this organization supported the move of the Bradley House to its present location and worked to open the home as the area's first museum. In 1994, the City of Mississauga officially took over the running of the Museum Complex and Heritage Mississauga took on the role as the only independent organization devoted to city-wide heritage matters. This year Heritage Mississauga celebrates its 50th anniversary.

c) Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation

The name "Mississauga" comes from the First Nation peoples who once lived in the area. Although they called themselves the Anishinabeg, or "The People", the name given to them by early French traders was the Mississaugas. The Mississaugas are part of the Ojibway Nation and by 1700 the Ojibway occupied most of what is now Southern Ontario. In the 1720's, the French set up a trading post at the mouth of the river, near

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the Native Village. Custom allowed for Natives to trade on credit, in advance of the next season. This custom, trading on credit, lent its name to the river itself - the Credit River.

The Mississaugas signed two major treaties with the British giving up legal title to vast tracts of land. On August 1st, 1805, the Mississaugas signed Treaty 13, also known as the Toronto Purchase. The following day, on August 2nd, 1805, the Mississaugas signed Treaty 13A, also known as the Mississauga Purchase or the First Purchase. This treaty surrendered approximately 85,000 acres of land in exchange for 1000 pounds currency.

In 1846, The Six Nations Confederacy of the Iroquois sent a delegation offering to the Mississaugas 4800 acres in Tuscarora Township. Due to declining numbers, malnutrition, loss of way of life and disease, only 266 Mississaugas moved from the Credit River. Their descendants still reside on the Six Nations Reserve south of Brantford, in a community appropriately named "New Credit".

Approximately 1788 band members are living on the New Credit reserve but nearly half of the Mississaugas are living off-reserve due to lack of employment opportunities, inadequate land base, and lack of available housing. A Cultural Committee has been established to promote socio-economic growth in the New Credit community and to promote awareness and education on the traditional and cultural heritage of the Mississaugas of the New Credit in the non-native community.

2. Details of the *Maanjidowin* event

Maanjidowin will be held on Saturday, July 17th from Sunrise until Sunset and Sunday, July 18th from 10:00 a.m. until – 6:00 p.m. in Port Credit, Mississauga at J.C. Saddington Park (Lake St.). Drummers, fiddlers, dancers, jiggers, throat singers and historical re-enactors will entertain, while Elders share teachings and stories of the past. Young and old will experience early history first hand at workshops, demonstrations and community booths.

The theme of this year's event is "Friendships that Transcend Time". The event bridges the past with the current and provides an excellent opportunity for Peel's residents of all cultures to participate in an event that brings people together in an inclusive way. The event will begin with a sunrise ceremony at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 18th followed by a pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m., which will run until 10:30 a.m. The market place will open at 10:00 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m. the Métis Voyagers will travel up the River on their canoes singing traditional songs. Once they arrive at the shore they will seek permission from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation to come onto their traditional land leading into the opening ceremonies. Entertainment will commence at 1:00 p.m., following the opening ceremony.

The opening ceremonies will commence at 12:00 p.m. with the "Grand Entry ". This is a procession that is led by Aboriginal and other community leaders: Bryan LaForme, Chief of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Mayor Hazel McCallion, City of Mississauga representation from Métis Nation of Ontario and the Inuit. The Maanjidowin committee has also invited Emil Kolb, Regional Chair, Susan Fennell, Mayor of Brampton and Marilyn Morrison, Mayor of Caledon to participate in the Grand Entry/Opening Ceremonies. The leaders will be followed by flag bearers, veterans, Elders, as well as First Nation and Métis event participants. The Grand Entry will be led by representatives appointed by the official leaders on the second day.

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Regional Councillor John Sanderson has shown continued commitment and provided support in the 2008 and 2009 *A Gathering: Peel's Aboriginal Celebration* and once again is supporting the Peel Aboriginal Steering Committee's partnership with the *Maanjidowin* by endorsing the City of Brampton sponsorship of the children's area and participating in the pancake breakfast and Grand Entry.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The anticipated cost is \$70,500 (exclude in-kind), with costs shared as follows:

Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$50,000
City of Mississauga	\$ 5,000
Region of Peel (Human Services)	\$ 5,000
Peel District School Board	\$ 5,000
Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board	\$ 5,000
City of Brampton	<u>\$ 500</u>
 Total	 \$70,500

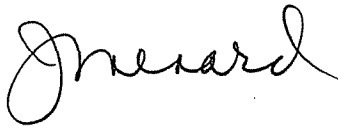
Heritage Mississauga secured an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for \$50,000.00.

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CONCLUSION

Heritage Mississauga, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, Credit River Metis Council, and PASC/Region of Peel are committed to providing opportunities, such as the *Maanjidowin* event, for Peel residents to celebrate and learn more about the unique heritage and cultures of our First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples. The partnership forged by these organizations will provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen the capacity of the Aboriginal community throughout the Peel Region, make new connections, strengthen and establish relationships, as well as create opportunities to share resources. Through educating and raising awareness it is hoped that we will eventually meet the needs of our Aboriginal community so that they can access services/programs where they live here in Peel.



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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