



**MAYOR'S INDIGENOUS ADVISORY CIRCLE
MEETING NOTES**

December 10, 2019

Meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m. and adjourned at 1 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Brian Bowman
Kimberley Puhach, Chairperson
Elder Lucy Guiboche
Elder Norman Meade
Councillor Sherri Rollins
Alan Greyeyes
Sean McCormick
Ry Moran

REGRETS:

Elder Harry Bone
Dee Thomas-Hart
Elder Mae Louise Campbell
Councillor John Orlikow
Manley A. Begay Jr.
Dr. Cindy Blackstock
Dr. Phil Fontaine
Jessica Dumas
Damon Johnston

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE:

Tricia Chestnut, Senior Policy Analyst, Mayor's Office
Rhonda Forgues, Manager, Indigenous Relations Division
Sherwood Armbruster, Special Projects Manager, City Clerk's Department

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: March 11, 2020

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No.	Item	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order • Opening Prayer and Smudge facilitated by Elder Norman Meade • Review and Acceptance of Notes of September 24, 2019 Meeting 		
1	Mayor's Update	<p>The Mayor wished members and their families Seasons Greetings.</p> <p>It has been a busy year at City Hall. The Mayor appreciated a recent invitation and opportunity to participate in a Sharing Circle at the University of Winnipeg with Elder Meade. It was also inspiring to spend time with young people at the University of Winnipeg in support of a cross-cultural, work-study program that connects students to inner city resiliency.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked members for continuing to support <i>Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord</i>. The impact and ripple in the community has been noticeable and far-reaching. The Winnipeg Public Service continues to work on developing the Welcoming Winnipeg initiative. It is encouraging that the discourse to date has not been hateful or polarizing as it has been in some jurisdictions. In fact, Winnipeg has received positive feedback and considerable goodwill towards our more proactive approach to monuments and place names.</p>
2	Chair's Report Revisit Mandate Planning Session	<p>The Chair and the Mayor provided a brief overview of the history and mandate of MIAC. The objective of a planning conversation is to check in with members to ensure that MIAC's role is understood and that our group time is fulfilling expectations.</p> <p>The January, 2015 Macleans publication put Winnipeg in the national spotlight and led to the creation of MIAC. Winnipeg's response was to shine a light on the problem of racism, rather than deny or ignore it. Immediate actions included a press conference to acknowledge the problem. The vision for Winnipeg to be a leader in reconciliation included the creation of broader discussion platforms to open up conversations, such as a dedicated idea-seeking website and a Summit on Racial Inclusion.</p> <p>In addition to the initial response, a need for ongoing community input, advice and dialogue was identified. MIAC was formed as a group of Indigenous community leaders who would meet regularly to provide advice to the Mayor. Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord was birthed by MIAC to broaden the community invitation to fulfil the same purpose.</p> <p>The Mayor invited members to continue to share community observations and</p>

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		<p>provide suggestions as to additional voices who may be missing in the Circle.</p> <p>General discussion ensued as to complexity of the larger context and where MIAC should focus in the next 3 years. Members indicated a desire to reflect the community, be a place for safe, candid discussion as well as a group that plants seeds for the longer term, future generational effort.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that ongoing focus, work and collaboration by all members outside the four meetings per year will be essential to address specific community challenges. A suggestion was made to focus meeting time by expediting presentations and utilize time towards practical problem identification and resolve.</p> <p>It was noted that MIAC has a unique and thoughtful process. It was never meant to operate like a traditional "Committee". MIAC's focus is on "what is right", not "who is right. Since its inception, the Circle has engaged a significant breadth of issues. Future work should be on addressing depth of specific community challenges. MIAC can lead by example and demonstrate to the community what is important.</p> <p>MIAC listened to a personal story of residential school experiences and survival. Members were reminded that many hurdles were expected from the outset. It is no surprise that Winnipeg still has a lot of work to do. The community must take lessons and stay in connection with our children and grandchildren. After all is said and done, the output of our work is for our children. Children have the spiritual heart that is required to maintain hope to re-build a better world while dismantling colonial structures. If we are to be successful, children must feel part of the community and feel good about living in Winnipeg.</p> <p>Members discussed whether there is a common set of values and principles that we are collectively operating from. An understanding and respect for basic human rights is the bedrock for our discussions and actions. At times, unfortunately, the community is still debating basic facts. We need to combat apathy as well as demonstrate that the protection of fundamental human rights is non-negotiable.</p>
3	Business Arising from Previous Meetings: Indigenous Procurement	<p>At a previous meeting, members Jessica Dumas and Damon Johnston raised the topic of Indigenous Procurement for MIAC discussion and consideration.</p> <p>General discussion occurred about the importance of the Indigenous economy and many local social business models that exist within the community.</p>

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	-Mother Earth Recycling	One such example, Mother Earth Recycling is an operating Social Enterprise with a sound business model. Board Chair Sean McCormick provided an overview of how Mother Earth Recycling works with the City and the Province to provide employment to individuals facing barriers while meeting a community need; i.e. mattress and box spring recycling.
4	New Business	Members shared updates on various community projects and upcoming events.
Closing Prayer by Elder Lucy Guiboche		
Adjournment and Dates of 2020 Meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 11 • June 10 • September 9 • December 9