



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Title:** First Nations – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative

**Meeting Date:** March 12, 2019

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### **Executive Summary:**

Cold Lake First Nations has brought it to the City's attention that a position in the First Nations – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) program has opened up.

The program is a joint effort between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (Cando). The program assists with relationship building between the partners with a process which, if successful, leads towards accessing grants to assist with learning opportunities and economic development capacity building.

The relationship building consists of a number of workshops and meetings which lead to a joint economic development plan, the cost of these workshops is covered under the program for successful applicants. Once a plan is adopted, the partners can then access a mentoring grant (\$3,600); a Study/Learning Grant (\$7,200) and a Capacity Building Grant (\$35,000).

Cold Lake First Nations has expressed interest in going through the process with either the City of Cold Lake or the Municipal District of Bonnyville, or both. The Municipal District of Bonnyville has expressed initial interest in applying jointly with Cold Lake First Nations and the City of Cold Lake, and will consider a motion authorizing a joint application to the CEDI program at its regular council meeting, scheduled for March 13, 2019.

Administration feels that because Cold Lake First Nations, the Municipal District of Bonnyville and Cold Lake all have interest in developing the region's capacity for tourism, and diversifying the local economy, that there would be enough common interest to support the application and ensure the group's successful completion of the CEDI program.

### **Background:**

The recent opening in the CEDI program means that the successful applicants will need to work through the community building process on an accelerated timeline: While the



program generally allows three years for this process, the successful applicants in this instance will need to complete the process in two years.

A suggested timeline is supplied in the information attached, stretching from early April 2019 to March 2021.

In past programs, successful applicants have achieved:

- Development of a Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Development and implementation of a Joint Tourism Strategy
- Creation of joint Land Use Plans
- Creation of a First Nation Industrial Park

It appears that the exact nature of a group's project will be determined as part of the relationship building portion of the program. The deadline for the application is March 15, 2019. Short listed candidates will be contacted for interviews in the last week of March, with a decision to be made during the first week of April.

Applicants should be prepared to begin the process within two weeks of being notified and should expect to commit approximately 12 hours of staff time to the process a month.

**Alternatives:**

- Council may pass a motion authorizing a joint application to the CEDI program between the City of Cold Lake, Cold Lake First Nations, and the Municipal District of Bonnyville.
- Council may pass a motion authorizing a joint application to the CEDI program between the City of Cold Lake and Cold Lake First Nations.
- Council may decline a joint application to the CEDI program at this time.

**Recommended Action:**

Administration recommends that council pass a motion authorizing a joint application to the CEDI program between the City of Cold Lake, Cold Lake First Nations, and the Municipal District of Bonnyville.

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No.

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Office