

Town of Cochrane

**Mayoral Directive to Staff MD-2025-06**

**TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT AN INDIGENOUS  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Under the Authority: *Part VI.1 (Special Powers and Duties of Head of Council) of the Municipal Act, 2001, Sections 284.8 (Power to Create Committees) and 284.3 (Power to Direct Staff) the Mayor may:*

For the purposes of exercising powers or performing duties under this Part, the head of council may, in writing, exercise the powers of the municipality to direct municipal employees to,

- (a) undertake research and provide advice to the head of council and the municipality on policies and programs of the municipality or of the head of council as they relate to the powers and duties under this Part; and
- (b) carry out duties related to the exercise of the power or performance of the duty, including implementing any decisions made by the head of council under this Part. 2022, c. 18, Sched. 2, s. 1.

Subject to the regulations, if any, the following powers of the municipality with respect to prescribed committees, or committees within a prescribed class of committees, are assigned to the head of council:

- (a) The power to establish or dissolve committees.
- (b) The power to appoint chairs and vice-chairs of committees.
- (c) The power to assign functions to committees. 2022, c. 18, Sched. 2, s. 1.

**THE MAYOR DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. THAT an Indigenous Relations Committee be created.
2. THAT the Indigenous Relations Committee be comprised of the following:
  - a. Councillor, Susan Nelson
  - b. Councillor, Rod Reimer
  - c. Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Wray
3. THAT the Indigenous Relations Committee meet monthly and conduct communications between monthly meetings via email in accordance with the applicable rules.
  - a. The first meeting commences before September 24, 2025.
  - b. Communications can begin immediately.
  - c. Acting reasonably, attendance at this monthly meeting will be treated as a priority.
4. AND THAT the committee elect a chair from either of the two councillors involved who will report to council on the activities, communications, outcomes and any other appropriate matter, on a quarterly basis.
5. AND THAT The Indigenous Relations Committee serves as an advisory body to Cochrane Town Council, dedicated to fostering respectful, collaborative, and meaningful relationships between the municipality and Indigenous communities, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples with historical and contemporary ties to the region.
6. AND THAT The Committee's purpose is to:
  - a. **Support Inclusive Governance**  
Provide informed recommendations to the Operation and or Council on policies, programs, and initiatives that reflect Indigenous perspectives, rights, and priorities in alignment with the Municipal Act and Ontario's commitment to reconciliation.

- b. **Strengthen Relationships**  
Promote ongoing dialogue and partnership with Indigenous governments, organizations, and residents to ensure municipal decisions are inclusive and culturally informed.
  - c. **Advance Education and Awareness**  
Encourage public awareness and municipal staff training on Indigenous history, treaties, and contemporary issues, including the legacy of residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
  - d. **Promote Equitable Development**  
Advise on land use planning, environmental stewardship, and economic development projects to ensure they respect Indigenous values, traditional knowledge, and territorial rights.
  - e. **Guide Cultural Recognition**  
Support initiatives that celebrate Indigenous heritage, language, and contributions to the Cochrane community through events, public art, and cultural programming.
7. AND THAT This Committee will operate in accordance with municipal bylaws and meeting requirements, and will serve as a conduit for building trust, equity, and shared prosperity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of Cochrane.
8. AND THAT this committee will be advisory in nature and not have authority to make decisions or create direction. Decisions and direction remain with the operation, council, and the mayor where applicable, who may choose to take their own appropriate direction based on the communications created by this committee.

Executed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025 by:



**Peter Politis**  
Mayor | Maire | Ogima

