



March 6, 2019

Penticton Indian Band and the City of Penticton reaffirm neighbourly relationship with inaugural council-to-council meeting.

On Monday, March 4 the City of Penticton Mayor and Council along with the Penticton Indian Band Chief and Council engaged in a discussion regarding working on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the 94 recommendations arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“The members of Penticton City Council had been looking forward to meeting with the Penticton Indian Band Chief and Council since Chief Chad Eneas personally congratulated us on the night of our swearing in ceremony”, said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. “Our time together Monday with Chief Eneas and his Council served as a productive starting point to discuss the partnerships and interests that are critical to all our people and economies while also acknowledging the important role of reconciliation in developing respectful and just relationships between our communities.”

There was commitment from both parties to look at how the two government agencies can practically apply reconciliation through the proper recognition of Indigenous Peoples of this land. The Penticton Indian Band outlined how UNDRIP legislation has been tabled at the Federal level (Bill-262) and will be tabled at the Provincial level later this fall. The City is eager to work with the Penticton Indian Band to ensure that, moving forward, these frameworks enhance the neighbourly relationship.

“We are excited about the commitment by both parties to further dialogue culminating in real outcomes.” Chief Chad Eneas.

The Penticton Indian Band informed the City Council how some of the Federal and Provincial systemic policies create an unequal reality for the Penticton Indian Band. This resulted in suggestions coming forward for partnership and shared agreement opportunities for further planning and development building on such requirements we all need and share, focusing on access to development projects addressing climate change.

There was a brief review of the Protocol Agreement signed in 2004 with a desire to see it developed further. Some elected representatives around the table were original signers of the agreement, bringing valuable context to the discussion.

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