

**DATE:** June 6, 2017

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Trustee Bridget Stirling

**SUBJECT:** Motion re: Treaty 6 Flags

**REFERENCE:** [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)

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#### ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the April 25, 2017, Board meeting.

#### BACKGROUND

The District has explored the opportunity to display the Treaty 6 and Métis flags at the Centre for Education. The Centre for Education represents the values and beliefs of the District. The flags being displayed outdoors at the Centre for Education would be symbolic of all District schools and facilities. To move forward with this initiative consideration must be given to the following:

- The District will be able to use its current flag supplier to purchase outdoor quality flags; the cost of the Treaty 6 flag is approximately \$65 and the Métis flag is approximately \$40 per flag.
- Government of Canada's *Rules for flying the National Flag of Canada* state that the Canada flag must be the only flag flown on a flag pole. To support flying both the Treaty 6 and the Métis flag outdoors at the Centre for Education, the District will need to install two additional flag poles.
- When raising the Treaty 6 and Métis flags for the first time or permanently removing them from an outdoor flag pole it is appropriate to mark this event with a cultural ceremony.
- The flag raising ceremony at the Centre for Education would also support any school displaying the Treaty 6 or Métis flags internally on an indoor flagpole or inside a display case.
- The outdoor flags can be lowered to half-mast without cultural ceremony.
- The Centre for Education typically replaces outdoor flags due to fading and weathering on a regular maintenance schedule. It is anticipated that the Treaty 6 and Métis flags would require replacement on an annual basis. They can be changed out for new flags without cultural ceremony and staff from First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education would assist with proper disposal of the weathered flags.
- A policy should be developed to support the appropriate use of the Treaty 6 and Métis flags in schools to offer guidance on how to display the flags appropriately following the necessary protocols and ceremonies.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Board of Trustees recognizes our relationship with Treaty 6 and Métis people by flying both the Treaty 6 and Métis flags outdoors at the Centre for Education.**

**That the Board of Trustees purchase both the Treaty 6 and Métis flags to be provided as a gift to all District schools and other District sites to display in recognition of our relationships with Treaty people.**

**NEXT STEPS**

Staff from Building Operations will work with the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education unit to facilitate all work required to support the flying of the Treaty 6 and Métis flags at the Centre for Education, this will include planning the cultural ceremony to mark the flying of the two flags.

The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education unit will facilitate the purchasing of the Treaty 6 and Métis flags for all District schools and prepare an information package to support the schools in the appropriate displaying of these flags indoors. The distribution of flags to schools will correspond with the installation and cultural recognition of the flags at the Centre for Education.

BS:km