

# Lac La Biche County

# Report

## to Council

**SUBJECT:** Funding Request - Northeast Mayors, Reeves and Indigenous Leaders Caucus

**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** February 7, 2023

**CONFIDENTIAL:** No

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**Purpose:** To seek Council's endorsement to financially contribute to the Northeast Mayors, Reeves and Indigenous Leaders Caucus.

**Proposed Motion:**

That Council endorse the 2023 Northeast Mayors, Reeves and Indigenous Leaders funding formula request, with a maximum contribution of \$2,000 from Lac La Biche County.

**Options:**

- Council may approve the proposed funding formula.
- Council may approve funding in a higher or lesser amount.
- Council may request additional information, or await the expected framework for the Caucus, prior to approving funding.
- Council may request additional information on the proposed lobbying efforts prior to providing funding
- Council may decline the funding request.
- Council may decide to not participate in the Caucus.

**Recommendation:**

Administration supports to proposed motion.

**Background:**

The Northeast Mayors, Reeves and Indigenous Leaders Caucus is a group of approximately 40 communities, including municipalities (urban and rural), Metis Settlements and First Nations, coming together to represent the collective interests on a regional level. The Caucus has held meetings in Two Hills (April 2022), Lamont (July 2022), Lac La Biche (October 2022) and Cold Lake/MD of Bonnyville (2023). A meeting in mid-March is expected to be held in Vegreville.

Topics considered by the Caucus have included healthcare and doctor recruitment/retention, community safety/policing, municipal funding, broadband and highways (namely Highways 28). Most recently, a group of five representatives have been selected to form a steering committee to review a

funding formal for the Caucus and to hire a lobbyist to further the regional issues with other levels of government.

The Steering Committee has also been tasked with preparing a framework for the Caucus.

Minutes and correspondence from recent meetings indicate a request has been made to fund the lobbying efforts and provide startup dollars for the Caucus. There has been communication about a flat rate (varying by jurisdiction, but \$2,000 for Counties) or population based (\$0.25/capita – 7,673 for Lac La Biche County). Although clarity on the formula will be provided, the request of the County would not be more than \$2,000 at this time.

Mayor Reutov (and Deputy Mayor Pare, in the Mayor's absence) has attending these regional meetings and may provide additional information respecting the request.

**Strategic Alignment:**

Recent discussions held by the Caucus align well with Council's overall strategic plan.

**Financial Implications:**

**Costs:** \$2,000

**Source of funding:** General Municipal budget

**Relevant Legislation, Policy or Practices:**

Lac La Biche County holds membership and pays fees, for other similar organizations. These include the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (and associated District) and Alberta Municipalities.

**Internal Impacts:** None.

**Communication:** Administration will liaise with the Town of Vegreville to submit the County's portion of the funding request.

**Attachments:** None.

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