

History of City Response to the Coroner’s Inquest and Recommendations

The Inquest

The Inquest began on October 5, 2015, and concluded June 28, 2016. The City was granted standing at the Inquest.

The City provided evidence with respect to the general operation of the municipality including funding, its Strategic Plans, and ability to pass by-laws with respect to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality.

Evidence also described programs and initiatives supported by the City including:

- Diversity Thunder Bay
- Thunder Bay Anti-Racism & Respect Committee
- Aboriginal Liaison Strategy
- Elder’s Advisory Council
- Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council
- Thunder Bay Drug Strategy
- Recreation and Facilities Master Plan
- Thunder Bay Youth Strategy
- Respect. Initiative
- P.R.O. Kids
- Children’s Charter
- Inspire Thunder Bay Culture Plan

The City also provided evidence on initiatives undertaken in response to the goals established by the various City Strategic Plans adopted by City Council over the years including:

- Declaration of Commitment between the City and Urban Aboriginal People
- Declaration of Commitment between the City and Fort William First Nation
- Involvement in orientation and welcoming students coming to Thunder Bay for high school
- Development of the respect. Positive Youth Identity campaign
- Development of options for a youth centre
- Establishment of a youth centre in partnership with Wasaya Group Inc.
- Support of a youth centre within the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, now known as the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
- Sponsorship of the Fall Feast and Festival of Services
- Short documentary film series “Walk a Mile” curriculum and training
- Aboriginal Youth Development program
- Support for the development of Student Living Centres for students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School and Matawa Learning Centre, now known as Matawa Education and Care Centre

History of City Response to the Inquest

Implementation of the City's response to the Seven Youth Inquest has been undertaken by an internal team comprised of the Director of Corporate Strategic Services, the Manager of Indigenous Relations & Inclusion, the City Clerk, the Director of Recreation & Culture, the Director of Human Resources & Corporate Safety, the Supervisor – Staffing, Development & Support Services, the Manager of Transit, Program Supervisor – Children and Youth; Coordinator – Planning, Projects & Development (Community Services), the Crime Prevention Council Coordinator, the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy Coordinator and Legal Services.

The following are Corporate Reports discussing the implementation of the Inquest. These same reports are submitted annually to the office of the Chief Coroner and are posted publicly on Nishnawbe Aski Nation's website:

- On June 12, 2017, Committee of the Whole approved the City of Thunder Bay's First Annual Report as contained in Report R61/2017 (Corporate Strategic Services) on the Seven Youth Inquest for submission to the Ontario Chief Coroner.
- On June 25, 2018, Committee of the Whole approved the City of Thunder Bay's Second Annual Report as contained in Report 82/2018 (Corporate Strategic Services) on the Seven Youth Inquest for submission to the Ontario Chief Coroner.
- On June 24, 2019, Committee of the Whole approved the City of Thunder Bay's Third Annual Report as contained in Report R108/2019 (Corporate Strategic Services) on the Seven Youth Inquest for submission to the Ontario Chief Coroner.
- On 10 August, 2020, Committee of the Whole approved the City of Thunder Bay's Fourth Annual Report as contained in Report R93 2020 (Corporate Strategic Services) on the Seven Youth Inquest for submission to the Ontario Chief Coroner. The final submission to the Ontario Chief Coroner took place on 11 August, 2020.