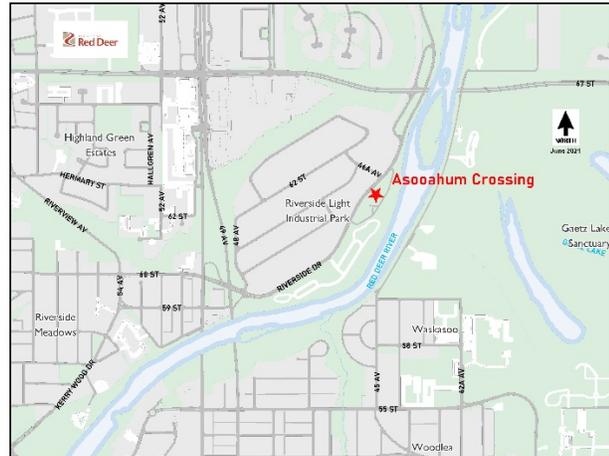


June 21, 2021

## Continued partnership for Asooahum Crossing approved on National Indigenous Peoples Day



### 1. What is Asooahum Crossing?

Asooahum Crossing is a development by Red Deer Native Friendship Society providing an affordable housing complex, sweat lodge and a garden maintained through the Women's Wellness Program. There are also future plans to build a cultural centre and medicine garden on site.

The development is located within Red Deer's beloved Waskasoo Park Trail System, providing a natural area, close proximity to a body of water, access to services and opportunity to co-locate cultural activities and housing. A partnership between The City of Red Deer and Red Deer Native Friendship Society was born out of the Asooahum Crossing project, aligning visions from both parties while ensuring the best interest of the community.

### 2. Who chose the location for Asooahum Crossing?

The land on Riverside Drive near the 67 Street bridge was chosen following recommendations made by the Joint Steering Committee made up of representatives from The City of Red Deer and Red Deer Native Friendship Society. The Committee created a list of priorities based on the needs of Asooahum Crossing and narrowed the list of 20 locations to the site it now sits on.

### 3. Who owns the land where Asooahum Crossing is located?

The City of Red Deer transferred title of the parcel of land to Red Deer Native Friendship Society in 2014 following an agreement to sell the property for \$1. The 2014 assessed value of the Riverside site is \$957,000. Along with other agreements to help them realize the vision for the site that considers a deferred lease of a portion of the Lions campground and access to the adjacent municipal reserve and public utility lot.

#### **4. How did the Joint Steering Committee come together?**

The Joint Steering Committee formed to find a new location for the housing project because the original site did not receive zoning approval. Both RDNFS and The City wanted to signal their commitment to the project, a new site, and a new relationship. The Committee is the first of its kind in Red Deer. It has helped to build the relationship between The City of Red Deer and Red Deer Native Friendship Society creating the opportunity to successfully collaborate on not only the Asooahum Crossing development, but also future joint endeavors.

#### **5. How much did Council approve on June 21, 2021 to transfer to RDNFS?**

Based on the mutually developed and agreed upon formula and the land values provided by a third party assessor, Council approved a transfer of \$590,000 to RDNFS to fulfil the formula agreement unanimously agreed upon by the Committee. The agreed upon formula to come to this amount is:

- \$1,592,000 - 2014 appraised value of Clearview Ridge site
- \$478,500 - half the cost of Riverside site (2014 value)
- \$523,500 - value for development of infrastructure costs (2014)
- \$ 590,000

2014 was chosen as the date for the appraisals because that was the date when the transfer of title and sale of land from The City to the RDNFS for \$1 and the signing of the operational agreements. If the \$590,000 is approved, it would be funded through the Operating Reserve Tax Supported (ORTS), As the Riverside Drive site was originally deemed a natural area, The City's portion of a future sale of Clearview Ridge will be to purchase parkland/trees and RDNFS will use its portion to continue to enhance Asooahum Crossing and it's connectivity to the Waskasoo Trail Park System for the benefit of the community.

To support The City's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, Council also approved \$140,000 as a one-time partnership grant for phase two of the Asooahum Crossing project. This grant is funded through Operating Reserves – Tax Supported.

#### **6. What can RDNFS do with the funds?**

RDNFS can use the funds to leverage grants from other levels of governments for investing in Asooahum Crossing.

The terms of agreement made between The City and RDNFS outlined that the \$590,000 will be provided to the RDNFS immediately and will be used for future development for Asooahum Crossing.

The \$140,000 grant will represent a partnership in the Asooahum Crossing project, and the RDNFS will acknowledge The City as an official partner for the project. The previously allocated \$20,000 for the Peace Path will be rolled into the partnership grant.

#### **7. Who benefits from the agreement between the RDNFS and The City of Red Deer?**

Through the agreement, RDNFS was given ownership and title to the Riverside Drive site by The City compared to the lease agreement proposed by the Government of Alberta for the Clearview Ridge location. In addition, through the jointly agreed to formula, RDNFS receives an immediate financial transfer to begin development for phase two of Asooahum Crossing. The City of Red Deer will continue



to retain ownership of Clearview Ridge, which will be sold at a future date when market conditions improve. The agreed-to formula allowed RDNFS to own the property and begin development. The City is committed to reconciliation and will use the proceeds of the sale of Clearview Ridge to follow through on commitment to cover development costs and loss of park space.

**8. What will The City do with the funds when the Clearview Ridge site is sold?**

When The City sells the Clearview Ridge site, internal controls will be put on the proceeds to ensure the funds go towards the agreed to areas of parkland development/acquisition, payment of any development or infrastructure costs, and replacement of trees. The transaction and development costs will be covered first, the additional funds will be put towards the purchase of park space to fulfil The City's commitment to the community.

**9. Will the Committee continue working together?**

Yes, the Joint Steering Committee will continue moving forward together. The Committee has given The City and RDNFS an opportunity to build a strong relationship that allows for future partnership opportunities to fulfill the vision of Asooahum Crossing and future endeavors.