

CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE  
BY-LAW 23-8760

BEING A BY-LAW of the City of Portage la Prairie to establish the Suta Kachicha, in a culturally sensitive and respectful manner, while incorporating Indigenous teachings.

WHEREAS the City passed the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Coalition By-Law 19-8692 in April of 2019 to form a link between City Council and Indigenous members of the community, for the purpose of information-sharing and to provide input, advice and recommendations to Council;

AND WHEREAS the Coalition has deemed it essential to amend the By-Law and re-name it the Suta Kachicha By-Law in order to establish the terms and mandate of Suta Kachicha in a decolonized manner, incorporating Indigenous teachings such as the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings;

AND WHEREAS by incorporating the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings into the Suta Kachicha By-law, the City of Portage la Prairie aims to create a culturally sensitive and respectful coalition that acknowledges and respects Indigenous peoples, their culture, and their wisdom;

AND WHEREAS the Medicine Wheel, a symbol of balance and interconnectedness, can guide the council's work by encouraging the consideration of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of each decision made;

AND WHEREAS the Seven Sacred Teachings - respect, love, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth - can further inform the actions and decisions of the Suta Kachicha. By integrating these teachings into the council's mandate, members will foster understanding, cooperation, and unity while addressing issues and concerns affecting urban Indigenous peoples in the City of Portage la Prairie.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie, assembled, enacts as follows:

**INTERPRETATION**

This by-law may be cited as the "Suta Kachicha Indigenous Coalition By-law."

**DEFINITIONS**

Unless otherwise expressly provided or unless the context otherwise requires, words and expressions in this By-law have the same meaning as the same words and expressions in a standard dictionary.

In this By-law:

- (1) "Indigenous" includes First Nations, Non-Status, Métis, and Inuit peoples;
- (2) "Suta Kachicha" means "Stronger Together";
- (3) "City Council" means the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie;
- (4) "City Manager" means the City Manager of the City of Portage la Prairie;
- (5) "Knowledge Holder" means a respected individual within the community who possesses and shares deep wisdom and understanding of traditional teachings, practices, and cultural heritage.

## ESTABLISHMENT

The Suta Kachicha Indigenous Coalition of the City of Portage la Prairie (hereinafter referred to as "the Suta Kachicha") is hereby established.

## DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

City Council may refer to the Suta Kachicha for its consideration and advice, and the Suta Kachicha may on its own initiative consider and advise City Council on any matter relating to issues of concern to Indigenous peoples, using a decolonized, culturally respectful approach, and incorporating Indigenous teachings such as but not limited to the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings. This includes:

- (1) Developing and maintaining positive relationships with individuals, groups, agencies, organizations, orders of government, and others addressing issues of concern to urban Indigenous peoples.
- (2) Assisting the efforts of other agencies, organizations, etc., addressing issues of concern to Urban Indigenous peoples.
- (3) Undertaking research, study, or investigation in areas of concern using culturally appropriate methodologies, and guided by the principles of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings, to develop advice and make recommendations.
- (4) Soliciting input and receiving advice, recommendations, reports, or concerns from individuals or groups addressing issues of concern to Urban Indigenous peoples, and recommending appropriate action based on Indigenous teachings.
- (5) Collaborating with City of Portage la Prairie staff through the Office of the City Manager in support and development of policies, programs, and other initiatives that will seek to address issues of concern to Urban Indigenous peoples in a culturally sensitive manner, inspired by Indigenous teachings.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Suta Kachicha shall consist of members, to be agreed upon by the Elders/Knowledge Keepers of Suta Kachicha through self-determination, and guidance from the principles of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings or relevant cultural knowledge:

- (1) Minimum number of members/Knowledge Holders shall be five, with a maximum of 21. If there are additional members requesting to participate, Suta Kachicha can make a motion to accept additional members can become “members at large”.
- (2) All members appointed to the Suta Kachicha shall serve for the following terms of office, taking into consideration the principles of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings or other relevant cultural knowledge:
- (3) The appointed members of City Council shall be appointed annually at the organizational meeting of City Council held in November of each year;
- (4) The remaining members shall be appointed for a two-year term commencing on the 1st day of January in the year in which such appointments are made.

Each member is eligible for reappointment on the expiration of their term of office.

- (1) Where a vacancy in the membership occurs, from any cause during the term of its members, Suta Kachicha shall appoint a person to fill such a vacancy on the Suta Kachicha, and that person will serve for the unexpired term of office for which his or her predecessor was appointed.
- (2) Where a member fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Suta Kachicha without being authorized to do so by resolution of the Indigenous Council, such member thereby forfeits their membership on the Suta Kachicha.
- (3) In those years where vacancies occur in the membership due to the expiration of terms of office of citizen representatives, applications from citizens of the City of Portage la Prairie interested in serving on the Suta Kachicha shall be sought through public notice, and all applications received shall be presented to Suta Kachicha for consideration. Approval of the candidates applying to be appointed to the Suta Kachicha shall be made by Suta Kachicha, informed by the principles of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings.

## MEETINGS OF THE SUTA KACHICHA

- (1) The Suta Kachicha shall meet at least once a month, except during the months of July and August, and shall also meet at the call of the Chairperson or at the request of one-third of its members, following culturally appropriate protocols or on guidance of the designated Elders/Knowledge Holder.

- (2) Any standing or special committee of the Suta Kachicha may meet as often as deemed necessary by the Chairperson of each respective committee and each committee shall devote its energies to their delegated area of responsibility, guided by Indigenous teachings.
- (3) The Suta Kachicha may establish its own rules and procedures for the conduct of its meetings, informed by Indigenous protocols and teachings.
- (4) The Chairperson of the Suta Kachicha, and each of its sub-committees, shall preserve order at all meetings and decide all points of order which may arise, in a manner consistent with Indigenous teachings and values.
- (5) All questions before any meeting of the Suta Kachicha or sub-committee shall be decided by a majority of the members present, including the Chairperson, and the Chairperson shall, in addition, have a deciding vote in the event of an equality of votes, in a way that respects Indigenous decision-making processes.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE IN OPEN SESSION ASSEMBLED HEREBY ENACTS AS A BY-LAW AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) That By-Law 19-8692 be hereby rescinded.
- (2) This by-law shall come into full force the day after passing.

DONE AND PASSED by the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie duly assembled, this 8 day of January, 2024.

SKing  
MAYOR

Marie Van Aet  
MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATION

Read a first time this 11 day of December, 2023. SA

Read a second time this 8 day of January, 2024. SA

Read a third time this 8 day of January, 2024. SA