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TO: Community Services Committee

DESTINATAIRE : Comité des services communautaires et de protection

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FILE NUMBER: ACS2025-RCF-GEN-0005

**SUBJECT: City of Ottawa-Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Civic Cultural Protocol  
and Implementation Plan (2022-2026)**

**OBJET : Ville d'Ottawa – Protocole culturel civique relatif à la Nation Anishinabe  
Algonquine et plan de mise en œuvre (2022-2026)**

## PURPOSE

This memo provides an update to the Community Services Committee on the Implementation of the City of Ottawa - Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Civic Cultural Protocol and Implementation Plan (2022 – 2026).

## BACKGROUND

City Council approved the City of Ottawa – Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Civic Cultural Protocol and Implementation Plan (2022 – 2026) (ACS2022-RCF-GEN-0004) on April 13, 2022. Ottawa is the first municipality in Canada to enact a Civic Cultural Protocol. As such, the first iteration of the Protocol and Implementation Plan are a learning process for both parties and will continue to evolve.

The purpose of the Protocol and Implementation Plan is to chart a path forward for the meaningful collaboration of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation, on whose unceded traditional lands the city of Ottawa has been built on, in matters related to arts, culture and heritage.

This was in response to the recommendation to “Recognize the Algonquin Anishinabeg First Nation as the Indigenous community in Ottawa by developing a civic protocol, communication and cultural partnership opportunities” in the Renewed Action Plan for Arts, Culture and Heritage 2013-2018 approved by Council in 2012. The need for a civic cultural protocol was reinforced in the City of Ottawa Reconciliation Action Plan adopted by Council in 2018.

The Protocol was developed over five years (2014-2019) through extensive collaboration with the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, the Algonquin Nation Programs and Services Secretariat, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. These organizations represent the 11 Anishinabe Algonquin First Nation communities that comprise the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

The trust and collaboration required to support the creation and implementation of the Protocol was built through several years of work between the City of Ottawa led by the Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department, and the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation. This work, initiated in 2010, built towards a solid foundation of actions taken to ensure learning, reconciliation and recognition including:

- Anishinabeg Algonquin Nation Culture and Heritage Awareness Session attended by 140 City of Ottawa employees and cultural partners, November 2012.
- First historic meeting between City of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and the Chiefs of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on January 16, 2013.
- Establishment of the City of Ottawa Honoring Statement / Land Acknowledgement, April 2016.
- Installation of Anishinabe Algonquin Nation commemorative artwork in Marion Dewar Plaza at Ottawa City Hall celebrating the Host Nation, its peoples and its land, affirming the presence of the Anishinabeg Algonquins on this territory for millennia, June 2016.
- Permanent raising of Algonquin Anishinabe Nation Flags at City Hall, June 2018.
- Learning visits to Algonquin Anishinabe First Nation reserves for City of Ottawa employees and cultural partners in May 2014, July 2018 and October 2018.
- Meeting between former City of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and representatives of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, the Algonquin Nation Programs and Services Secretariat, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on September 30, 2019.

The Implementation Plan for 2022-2026 was developed with the collaboration and support of various departments, including RCFS, Office of the City Clerk, Planning, Development and Building Services and the Ottawa Public Library, who took direction from the goals, principles, commitments and anticipated benefits of the Protocol and proposed actions responding to and advancing the relationship between the City and the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

The Plan commits to 81 actions across 20 thematic cultural partnership areas encompassing a variety of cultural disciplines, fields and functions. They are:

1. Governance
2. Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Elders
3. Archaeology

4. Archives
5. Artefact Collections Management and Artefact and Art Exhibitions
6. Commemoration
7. Cultural Awareness Building
8. Cultural Funding and Support
9. Cultural Heritage
10. Cultural Industries Development
11. Cultural Mapping
12. Cultural Policy Development
13. Cultural Research
14. Facilities (Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services)
15. Municipal Cultural Planning
16. Protocol, Communication and Civic Events
17. Anishinabemowin Algonquin Language
18. Ottawa Public Library
19. Public Art
20. Recreation and Cultural Programming and Events

## DISCUSSION

Of the 81 actions outlined in the implementation plan:

- 42 (52%) are complete and/or now part of ongoing City policy and process
- 24 (30%) are underway, started but not yet complete or fully integrated into City practice.
- 15 (19%) have not yet been initiated.

Overall, this means that of the actions outlined in the Implementation Plan 2022-2026 there has been action taken on 81%.

In April 2023, the Host Nation Protocol Working Group was established to support the implementation of the Civic Cultural Protocol. Working Group members were selected by the City of Ottawa cultural and connected service areas that collaborated in the initial development of the Civic Cultural Implementation Plan. The Protocol Working Group continues to meet periodically to share information and learn from each other, to support engagement, to monitor progress, and to coordinate presentations to the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation for the Consultative Culture Circle.

One of the most critical components of the implementation plan has been the establishment of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Consultative Culture Circle. The Circle is comprised of political and knowledge-keeper representation selected by the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, the Algonquin Nation Programs and Services Secretariat, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation from across the Host Nation as well as an official liaison from Ottawa City Council. The mandate of the Consultative Culture Circle is to guide the implementation of the Civic Cultural Protocol and Implementation Plan and respond to specific questions regarding Anishinabe Algonquin Nation culture from various City of Ottawa departments. The Circle has met twice per year since 2023, with five meetings to date, including one in-community hosted in Pikwakanagan on September 23, 2024.

In recent years, there has been increasing interest from within the organization to engage with the Host Nation on various initiatives such as naming and renaming of parks and rooms, facility development involvement at various stages of planning, public realm design, translation of signs and plaques, event participation and programming, etc. This increased demand for engagement with Host Nation, while very positive in building a collaborative relationship, has led to dialogue to determine how the City can better support the engagement of the corporation with the Host Nation in a sustainable way.

Other key actions that have been taken to date include:

- Collaborative development of *Procedural Guidelines for the Engagement and Collaboration with Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers* (Q2 2022). These guidelines are available to all City of Ottawa staff through SharePoint.
- Inclusion of Anishinabemowin Algonquin language in naming swimming levels for children 3-5 years old. The Cultural Centre of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, the Cultural Centre of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, and an Anishinabemowin Algonquin speaker provided the names for the swimming levels; an Anishinabe Algonquin artist created the designs identifying the swimming levels. (Q1- Q2 2022); and an Anishinabe Algonquin Elder participated in the unveiling ceremony on September 28, 2022.
- Public Art Program has focused on integrating site-specific Anishinabe Algonquin art, culture and heritage at Pimisi Station, Ādisōke and other locations and adapted existing public art procedures to improve capacity to improve capacity for Host Nations artists to apply.

- Cultural Funding support totaling \$364,032 to Anishinabe Algonquin applicants and organizations. Funding included multi-year operating support to Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Pimadjiwogamig and Omàmiwinini Pimàdjowin, as well project funding to 12 individual applicants.
- Extensive engagement in the development of the Municipal Commemoration Policy. Host Nation representation on both the Advisory Group and ongoing Working Group, as well as the one-pager on the Municipal Commemoration Policy Development in Anishinabemowin Algonquin and Inuktitut. (Q1 2021- to date)
- First Nations Principles of OCAP® - ownership, control, access and possession of First Nations data - training offered to representatives of all involved work areas in January 2024 to help guide responsible data practices.
- First annual meeting between the Mayor, Grand Chiefs and Chiefs representing the 11 federally recognized Anishinabe Algonquin First Nations on November 22, 2024. The meeting encouraged constructive dialogue on Host Nation concerns and priorities. The Mayor also indicated a desire to hold an annual meeting with Host Nation representatives.
- Creation of an inventory of Anishinabe Algonquin Nation and Indigenous belongings within the City of Ottawa Museums and Historic Sites collections with work ongoing to determine how to best steward these items (Q4 2024).
- Ottawa Public Library has added 17 titles that could be searched for materials in multiple formats, in the Anishinabemowin Algonquin language, to add to the library's collection (physical and virtual) (Q4 2024).
- Engagement and participation of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation in the development of the new Municipal Culture Plan including interviews with Knowledge Keepers and leaders as well as focus groups (Q2 - Q3 2025).

## ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

In addition to the 81 actions outlined in the Implementation Plan, an intake process has been developed to enable employees from various City of Ottawa departments to seek guidance from the Consultative Culture Circle on matters related to Anishinabe Algonquin Nation arts, culture and heritage. Through this process, requests can be submitted for consideration by the Circle Chair and Co-Chair. To date, 12 initiatives have been received. Some examples include:

- A request for an Anishinabemowin Algonquin name for the Pedestrian Bridge near Woodroffe High School. A text in Anishinabemowin Algonquin, French and English, which includes the significance of the name was developed with Circle

members and Host Nation representatives (Q1- 2025). The professional design of the plaque is currently being coordinated (Q2-2025).

- Solicited input regarding the engagement of the Host Nation in the pre-feasibility study for the new Mooney's Bay Beach Pavilion on the Rideau River (Q2 2024).
- Request for feedback on the proposed Anishinabemowin Algonquin name for the City park at 450 Tillbury Avenue and at 112 Spencer Street (Q2 2025).
- Request for feedback on the development of a heritage sign to honour the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation at Brewer Pond (Q2 2025).
- Request for feedback on the development of a commemorative plaque along the Ottawa River Pathway to honour the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation (Q2 2025).

Staff continuously strive to increase the awareness and inclusion of Anishinabe Algonquin Nation in City of Ottawa initiatives by providing contextual and specific information about the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation within the organization. Through facilitating direct connections as well as coaching different City of Ottawa partners in initiating and sustaining their own working relationships with the Host Nation.

## NEXT STEPS

Ongoing work by all service areas will continue over the next two years (2025 and 2026) including completion of the actions underway.

The outstanding actions will be reviewed with the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation through the Consultative Culture Circle for relevancy and possibly adapted or modified to facilitate work to start in those areas.

A renewed Implementation Plan for the next 5-year period (2027 to 2032) will begin in 2026.

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GM/DG

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CC: SLT

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix A - Action Status by Partnership Area