



**Date 10 March 2011**

## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Members of Council**

**Fr: Mayor Canfield**

**Re: Common Ground Update**

### **Background:**

This report is being provided for information purposes only to keep Council apprised of work on the Common Ground initiative.

The members appointed by the City to the Rat Portage Common Ground Conservation Organization met, together with the City CAO, in early February to be brought up to date on the status of and talk about next steps in moving this important partnership forward.

Committee members agreed that we have the opportunity before us now to move this important initiative forward. It was further agreed that Mayor Canfield will arrange a meeting with Ogichidaakwe Diane Kelly to allow introductions as well allow the opportunity to talk about next steps. By-law Number 1 for the Corporation needs to be completed, and the parties will need to resolve any outstanding issues in order to move this forward. There was some discussion with regards to a dispute resolution process, which was the outstanding issue related to By-law Number 1 from the previous City Council. The discussion incorporated the value of the use of treaty concepts, including the thought that traditional tools have not worked to date and that we need to do something different. Further discussion will need to occur with Council on this matter.

The Committee Members also saw this as a good opportunity to recall the original Stewardship Group and recognized that group as an important tool to help move this process forward.

Finally, Committee requested that City staff look into the property that represents the official "Rat Portage" as described by Dr. J. J. Bigsby in 1823 and review the opportunity to transfer this land into this Corporation. This item will be researched and reported separately to Council.