



**Date 3 May 2011**

## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council**

**Fr: Karen Brown**

**Re: Common Ground – Next Steps**

### **Recommendation:**

**That** Council hereby supports Mayor Canfield in sending a request to Ogichidaa'kwe Diane Kelly, Grand Council Treaty #3 in order that they, Mayor Canfield and Ogichidaa'kwe Diane Kelly may jointly call a Board meeting of the Rat Portage Common Ground Conservation Organization for the purposes of presenting and passing By-law #1 in order to formalize this corporation; and

**That** copies of this request be sent to our Common Ground partners, represented by the neighbouring communities of Wauzhusk Onigum, Ochiichagwe'Babigo'Ining and Obashkaandagaang Bay; and further

**That** Council hereby authorizes the City appointees to this Organization to approve By-law #1 and that consensus be the initial method of decision making.

### **Background:**

In May, 2009, the first Board meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rat Portage Common Ground Conservation Organization (the Organization) was called with the intent of approving By-law #1. The proposed by-law did not include a dispute resolution mechanism. At that time, the by-law was not approved, and the inclusion of a dispute resolution was pursued. This matter has been ongoing with no resolve for some time now, and the approval of By-law #1, and the corporate establishment of this unique partnership, has in effect been put on hold.

Mayor Dave Canfield provided an update on Common Ground to the current Council in a report dated March 10<sup>th</sup>. A copy of that report has been attached for your reference. This report included some discussion with regards to the dispute resolution process and the need that conventional tools have not worked to date, and that the City needed to look towards doing something different.

The City appointed members of the Rat Portage Common Ground Conservation Organization met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to further review next steps. At this meeting, the appointed members agreed that a report be brought forward to the City's May Standing Committee meetings seeking Council authorization for the appointees to proceed with having By-law #1 approved without the inclusion of a predetermined dispute resolution mechanism. A copy of the meeting notes have been attached for your reference.

**Budget:**

Anticipated costs may include minor legal fees, the City's share of which would be paid for from the City's legal expenses.

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

The Common Ground Partners will be advised of Council's direction on this matter, with the intent of calling a meeting to establish the corporation that will formalize this historic partnership.