



INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT COUNCIL POLICY

FIN-290
Effective Date:
July 14, 2026

POLICY STATEMENT

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo ("the Municipality") is committed to advancing economic reconciliation by increasing opportunities for Indigenous Businesses to meaningfully participate in municipal procurement. The Indigenous Procurement Policy (the "Policy") affirms the Municipality's commitment to equitable, inclusive, and transparent procurement practices, and establishes guiding principles for planning, evaluation, and awarding of municipal procurement activities that reflect that commitment.

The objectives of this Policy and supporting Administrative Procedure include:

- a. advancing economic reconciliation, while strengthening the Municipality's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, through respect, collaboration, and partnership;
- b. supporting the Municipality's commitment to regional economic development in ways that are inclusive, equitable, and sustainable;
- c. increasing the participation of Indigenous Businesses in providing goods, services, and construction services to the Municipality; and
- d. using municipal procurement practices to support the further development and capacity building of Indigenous Businesses.

SCOPE

The Indigenous Procurement Policy (the "Policy") applies to all procurement activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Municipality. Except where expressly excluded in this Policy or supporting Administrative Procedure, this Policy is intended to take precedence over Procurement Council Policy FIN-190.

DEFINITIONS

"First Nation" means an Indigenous people, community, government, band, or other Indigenous governing body in Canada, other than Inuit or Métis, that represents or exercises governance authority on behalf of its members.

"Indigenous" means of or relating to an Indigenous Person (as defined herein).

“Indigenous Business” means any one of the following entities:

- a. a band, as defined in the Indian Act;
- b. a sole proprietorship owned by an Indigenous Person;
- c. a corporation, cooperative, partnership or not-for-profit organization whose governing documents or partnership agreement (as applicable) state that at least 51% ownership and control is held by Indigenous Persons, First Nation, Métis Nation, or Métis Settlement; or
- d. a joint venture where at least one participating member of the venture is one of the parties listed in subparagraphs (a) through (c) above, provided such member has at least 51% ownership and control of the joint venture.

“Indigenous Participation” means the involvement of Indigenous Businesses in a procurement process as a bidder or a subcontractor or supplier to such bidder.

“Indigenous Person” means an individual who is First Nation, Métis, or Inuit (as recognized under section 25 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*).

“Indigenous Procurement” means a procurement practice that supports Indigenous entrepreneurship, businesses, and economic development and provides Indigenous business with opportunities to participate in the Municipality’s procurement function.

“Métis Nation” means any government, council, organization, or other representative body representing Métis persons or Métis communities.

“Métis Settlement” means a Métis community or settlement in Alberta established, recognized, or governed under the *Métis Settlements Act* and represented by its settlement council or other authorized governing body.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Municipality will apply the following principles when implementing Indigenous Procurement practices:
 - a. Reconciliation and Economic Development – The Municipality is committed to implementing substantive measures that advance reconciliation and support long-term Indigenous economic development.
 - b. Inclusion and Partnership – The Municipality will foster respectful relationships and effective partnerships with Indigenous Businesses and Indigenous workforce initiatives to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable regional economy.

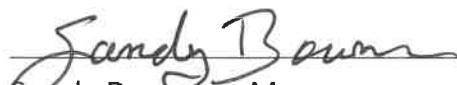
- c. Capacity Building – The Municipality will support capacity building for Indigenous Businesses by encouraging opportunities for skills development, training, and procurement readiness.
- d. Transparency and Fairness – The Municipality will ensure all procurement involving Indigenous Participation is conducted in a fair, open, and transparent manner that complies with all applicable laws, and policies, while recognizing applicable exemptions under intergovernmental trade agreements.
- e. Early Notification and Accessibility – The Municipality will provide timely and transparent information about procurement plans and capital projects to support Indigenous Businesses in preparing competitive and informed bids.
- f. Equity and Accessibility – The Municipality will promote equitable access to procurement opportunities by reducing barriers and supporting Indigenous Participation in municipal supply chains.
- g. Accountability – Administration is committed to reporting annually to Council on Indigenous Procurement activities, including benchmarking against the short-term Indigenous Procurement spend target of 11.3% and other key metrics.

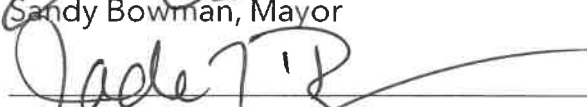
CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

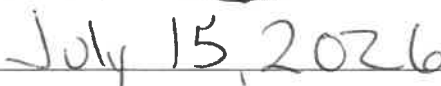
Failure to comply with this Policy or the supporting Administrative Procedure may result in corrective action in accordance with applicable legislation, municipal policies, and administrative procedures.

APPROVAL

This Council Policy is approved by:


Sandy Bowman, Mayor


Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer


Date

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Indigenous Procurement Administrative Procedure FIN-290.1

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Legal References: Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11.

Cross References: Procurement Policy FIN-190

DETAILS AND REVISION HISTORY

Date	Action	Description
July 14, 2026	Introduction	New Indigenous Procurement Council Policy FIN-290