

Written Advice Submitted to Council Environmental Leadership Recognition Program

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) supports amendment of the City Council Policy concerning Community Recognition Program (C-CS-03). The proposed amendment would expand the policy to include Environment as a category. The category would provide an opportunity for Council to recognize person(s)- organizations-businesses who have benefited St. Albert for their work related to environment matters.

The City of St. Albert has provided leadership within the community and the region for its work on the environment. Most recently it has advanced work on improving the quality of water being discharged within its borders to the Sturgeon River. Further, St. Albert engaged surrounding communities in development of collaborative efforts that led to the formation of the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance. Additional efforts have been applied to involve the community in environmental stewardship through community events and incentivizing community/citizen initiatives through the annual Environmental Grants Program. A variety of individuals, schools and independent groups (Big Lake Environmental Support Society, St. Albert Fish and Game Association, Friends of St. Albert Botanic Park etc.) have provided significant contributions to safeguard the air, land and water environments of St. Albert.

The present Community Recognition Program endeavors to raise pride within the community by recognizing and celebrating achievements by individuals, organizations and businesses in various categories including environmental service recognition in the Citizenship category. The time has come to include an “environment” category. The proposed environment category would acknowledge achievements in advancing natural and built environment

Community and Protective Services would continue to promote the Community Recognition Program and invite nominations annually. Nominations would be submitted to Community and Protective Services and then passed to the Environmental Advisory Committee who would adjudicate and make recommendations to Council on deserving nominees.

A proposed standard to support nomination for recognition in the environment category would include:

- resident and/or group/business situated in St. Albert
- achievement would be associated with natural and built environment.
- achievement is recognized as a single event and/or a culmination of accomplishments over the course of time that has markedly benefited the St. Albert community.

In conclusion, the EAC is hopeful that the introduction and ensuing debate of this proposed amendment will stimulate greater community interest in environmental stewardship. Should this amendment be passed, the EAC encourages Council to

support the new recognition with a public awareness campaign to further encourage residents to step forward and nominate resident(s)-groups-schools-businesses providing strong environmental stewardship and benefits to the community.