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## REPORT

3043/20

TO:	Finance & Administration Advisory Committee
FROM:	Christa Lowry & Jeff Atkinson, Mill of Kintail Museum Special Advisory Committee Co-Chairs
RE:	<b>Mill of Kintail Museum Update</b>
DATE:	February 7, 2020

### **Recommendation:**

That Finance Committee recommend that the MVCA Board of Directors approve the following:

1. That MVCA make application to a Judge for an interpretation regarding MVCA's legal obligations as it pertains to operation of the museum and grounds; and
2. That legal counsel be sought regarding governance options for the McKenzie and Naismith collections including:
  - a. establishing a new charitable organization;
  - b. repurposing the Mill of Kintail Canadian Arts and Pioneer Museum Corporation; and
  - c. repurposing the R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Trust.

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### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

A Special Advisory Committee was struck in October 2019 following MVCA's review of its programs and services in order to manage new funding constraints imposed by Bill 108 (More Homes, More Choice Act passed in June 2019). Since the museum is not expected to be considered core to the Conservation Authority's mandate under the new regulation, MVCA initiated discussions on how to keep the heritage building open for community use.

The Committee includes members from the Ontario Museum Association, fundraising, municipal and not-for-profit sectors and have met three times since November.

Since the new regulations have yet to be released by the Province of Ontario, at its latest meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Special Advisory Committee indicated it was limited to what it can recommend simply because not all of the required information is known at this time.

That being said, the Committee remains committed to the following:

- Deliver viable recommendations to the MVCA Board of Directors which include seeking long-term, sustainable funding opportunities
- Provide opportunity for public consultations – these will take place once the committee has more concrete information from the province to work with
- Keep the McKenzie and Naismith collections onsite at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area and the gristmill continues to pay homage to these two Canadian icons.

Since the last Special Advisory Committee meeting, new information has come forward regarding potential funders of the Museum and collections that require a timely response.

## **2.0 DISCUSSION**

**Whereas** the Province has indicated that activities such as operations of the Mill of Kintail Museum will no longer be eligible for funding under the conservation authority general levy;

**And whereas** the MVCA struck a Special Advisory Committee in 2019 to examine options for long-term governance and funding of the Mill of Kintail Museum;

**And whereas** interest has been expressed by potential funders in supporting the museum over the long-term;

**And whereas** in order to secure long-term commitments and funding levels a governance structure is needed that demonstrates a long-term commitment to the Mill of Kintail Museum;

**And whereas** there is an existing Mill of Kintail Canadian Arts and Pioneer Museum with Letters Patent that was to have been dissolved by the vendors at the time of the sale to MVCA in 1972;

**And whereas** that dissolution never occurred;

**And whereas** there is an existing R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Trust that is used for management of donations to the Museum but does not mention the Naismith collection;

**And whereas** there are no restrictive covenants or other agreements registered on title associated with the Museum or its operation, but other documents which, combined, may obligate the MVCA to “operate the Museum and maintain the grounds as a Tait McKenzie Memorial”

**And whereas** there is a need to ensure clarity in authority over the Mill of Kintail Museum collections for future governance and fund raising;

**And whereas** there is a need to move forward in a timely manner in order to capitalize on current interest and enthusiasm.

**Be it resolved that** the Finance Committee recommend that the MVCA Board of Directors approve the following:

3. That MVCA make application to a Judge for an interpretation regarding MVCA's legal obligations as it pertains to operation of the museum and grounds; and
4. That legal counsel be sought regarding governance options for the McKenzie and Naismith collections including:
  - a. establishing a new charitable organization; and
  - b. repurposing the Mill of Kintail Canadian Arts and Pioneer Museum Corporation; and
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