

REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

RE: Rainy Lake Market Square Advisory Committee
FROM: T DRYSDALE RRFDC EDAC
DATE : October 28,2015

In the Town of Fort Frances Strategic Plan of 2011, Council determined that they need to provide leadership to the process to find a solution for the vacant Rainy Lake Hotel structure. In late 2011, the Town directed the RRFDC to form a committee to examine options for the building. The RRFDC invited representatives of various community groups and Town divisions to form an advisory committee.

The committee met beginning in October 2011 and reviewed the information available on the building, its structure, its legal status, current studies and research and the options available. The committee discussed the various solutions to vacant hotels used in other communities, funding available and the current economic conditions within Fort Frances. The final recommendation of that committee was to pursue the development of the Market Square concept on the Rainy Lake Property.

A consultation process either through interview or meeting was conducted from March to May of 2012. The BIA, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Advisory Committee, RRFDC Board and Museum Advisory Committee received presentations. A public meeting was held at the Royal Canadian Legion on April 18. Input was also sought through individual interviews, through email or by phone. Stories in all local media appeared throughout the process. In total 78 stakeholders or members of the public provided input or attended a meeting regarding the proposed creation of the Market Square.

Now that the site is being readied to develop a Rainy Lake Market Square, EDAC is recommending that Council appoint and a new adhoc committee to work with the successful architectural firm and the Town CBO to guide the process of the market development.

EDAC is recommending to Council that representative(s) of the RRFDC, MNM, BIA, The Clover Valley Farmers Market, along with Town staff be appointed to this committee.