

Terms of Reference

Fort Frances / Aazhogan Renewal Planning Committee

1.0 Background on Aazhogan Renewal

2670568 Ontario Ltd. acquired the former Fort Frances mill properties in July 2019. Since that time, 2670568 and Rainy River First Nations have formed a joint venture with the intent to collaboratively redevelop the mill properties. The joint venture operates as Aazhogan Renewal.

In June 2020, Aazhogan Renewal and the Town of Fort Frances (together, The “Parties”) agreed to work together to address anticipated planning and development requirements associated with the mill properties, most notably with amendments that may be required with the Town of Fort Frances Official Plan ([click here](#)) and the ambitions of Aazhogan Renewal. The Town of Fort Frances and Aazhogan Renewal agreed to work together through a newly formed *Fort Frances/ Aazhogan Renewal Planning Committee* (“the Committee”).

2.0 Purpose

The Committee has been established to provide a forum to align The Parties’ priorities and to develop recommendations for amending Town planning documents relevant to ongoing renewal efforts within the Town limits.

The Committee is an advisory committee and will have no official authorities.

3.0 Principal responsibilities

The principal responsibilities of the Committee will be to:

1. Meet with the Town of Fort Frances’ designated planner to understand requirements within the municipality (i.e. *The Planning Act*, Official Plan, Zoning By-law, Provincial Policy Statement, etc.) as may be necessary.
2. Recommend appropriate mechanisms for efficiently re-zoning the mill properties from current designations to more appropriate Official Plan land use designations.
3. Develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a qualified consultant*. The consultant will have four primary responsibilities;
 - a. work with Aazhogan Renewal to develop a conceptual master plan for the former mill properties;
 - b. work with the entire Committee to identify opportunities for advancing the Official Plan and Zoning By-law in support of anticipated renewal projects;

- c. prepare and present a report to the Town of Fort Frances which shows the conceptual master plan and provide recommendations on amendments to the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law and;
- d. conduct public engagement activities upon request from the Committee.

**Selection of consultant will be through a scoring process and presented to both Aazhogan Renewal principles and the Town of Fort Frances for acceptance of consultant through a resolution.*

4. If necessary, develop and execute engagement and communication plans to gain support from key stakeholder groups, including governments, regulators, companies, and investors.

4.0 Membership

Membership of the Committee will include;

- 2 (two) representatives for Aazhogan Renewal and
- 2 (two) representatives from the Town of Fort Frances administration.

Members will sit on the Committee as representatives of their organization, in addition to bringing individual expertise.

The Committee will be chaired on a rotational basis by each of the four members.

5.0 Funding for the Committee

Each party will pay any out of pocket and travel expenses for their representatives.

The Town of Fort Frances will pay for all expenses related to the qualified consultant, including fees, expenses, etc. pending approval of funding submissions to granting agencies. Any fees or expenses for the consultant that are not covered by the grant will be split 50/50 by The Town of Fort Frances and Aazhogan Renewal.

6.0 Meeting Frequency and Location

The Committee will meet two times per month, on the second and fourth Tuesday.

The time requirement for each session will vary, but generally the session will begin at 1:30 pm and end by 3:30pm. Once a consultant is engaged, the committee may mutually agree to vary day and time requirements to facilitate an efficient process.

Meetings will be held in a location to be determined.

7.0 Duration

Duration of the Committee will continue to exist until the work is adopted by the Town of Fort Frances within their Official Plan and Zoning By-law.