



## POLICY & PROCEDURE

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**SECTION: MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

**NO: MU-CO-17**

**REFERENCE: COUNCIL**

**Effective Date: Feb. 10,  
2025**

**Next Review Date: Feb.  
2027**

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**TITLE: OGIMAAPINESS (LEONARD SKY) "BUILDING BRIDGES" AWARD**

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### **1. 0 Policy Statement**

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The Ogimaapiness (Leonard Sky) "Building Bridges" Award, sponsored by the City of Dryden Working Circle, recognizes an individual, business, or organization who has demonstrated leadership in enhancing diversity, respect, harmony, equality, and humility for others. They have gone above and beyond everyday efforts to promote attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours that recognize the importance of human dignity and self-esteem and the equality of all peoples.

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### **2. 0 Definitions**

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**Recipient** - The successful nominee chosen by the Working Circle membership to receive the Ogimaapiness (Leonard Sky) "Building Bridges" Award.

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### **3.0 Purpose**

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The purpose of this policy is to establish a process for the call for nominations, the selection of a recipient and the bestowment of the award, including where, when and how the award is to be presented and providing public notice. The policy will also identify the cost of the award and gift selected to be presented to the recipient.

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### **4.0 Background**

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The Ogimaapiness (Leonard Sky) "Building Bridges" Award was conceived in 2015 to honour Ogimaapiness (Leonard Sky), a long-time teacher, and Elder in the Dryden Area. His Anishinaabe Heritage and Language courses at Dryden High School opened many students' eyes to their shared history, increased their pride in their culture and language, and began building bridges and better understanding in Dryden and surrounding area. Leonard Sky's spirit name Ogimaapiness means Leader of the Thunderbirds.

The award was previously sponsored by the Dryden Area Anti Racism Network (DAARN) and as of 2023 has transitioned to the City of Dryden Working Circle to be administered.

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### **5.0 NOMINATION PROCESS**

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- 5.1 The Call for Nominations shall be identified on a Working Circle agenda at the first meeting in March for discussion.
- 5.2 The Working Circle shall provide direction to the City of Dryden to proceed with the posting of the call for nominations, identifying the closing date for nominations based on the following considerations:
  - Date of the Dryden High School Ogimaapiness (Leonard Sky) Powwow
  - Sufficient time to close and review the nominations and make a selection
  - Creation of the Star Blanket based on the recipient's background
  - Engraving of the plaque
- 5.3 The Call for Nominations shall be posted to the City of Dryden Website and disseminated over all City of Dryden Social Media channels and by any other available communications that would reach a wider audience.

- 5.4 Nomination forms will be made available for completion and submission electronically with a link provided and identified on all media notices as well as by hard copy and shall be made available for pick-up or printed from the City of Dryden Working Circle Webpage.
- 5.5 Completed nominations (both electronic or hard copy) shall be submitted to the City Clerk, at the Clerk's Office, 30 Van Horne Avenue, Dryden, Ontario by the date established and posted on all public postings.
- 5.6 Following the closing date of nominations received, copies of all nominations received shall be circulated to the Working Circle members and identified on the agenda for the next Working Circle meeting.

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## **6.0 Nomination Considerations**

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- 6.1 The Working Circle encourages Nominators to nominate an Individual, business or organization who:
  - 6.1.1 promotes cultural diversity and engages in educational activities to achieve respect and harmony;
  - 6.1.2 creates an atmosphere that assists in the elimination of racism and discrimination;
  - 6.1.3 fosters leadership to build a community where every person is valued.

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## **7.0 Working Circle Selection Process**

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- 7.1 All Nominations shall be subject to review and evaluation by the Working Circle membership who shall select a recipient for the award and confirm by a motion at a meeting of the Working Circle.
- 7.2 Council and the Clerk's Office shall be advised of the recipient's name which shall remain confidential until after the award is presented.
- 7.3 Members of the Working Circle shall declare any affiliations and/or conflicts of interest in reviewing the nominations and shall abstain from discussion and shall not vote on the motion to select a recipient.
- 7.4 The decisions of the Committee shall be final.
- 7.5 One of the Co-Chairs or designated member of the Working Circle shall contact Dryden High School to advise them of the recipient's name and ensure arrangements for the presentation of the Star Blanket and Plaque at the Dryden High School Ogimaapiness Leonard Sky Memorial Powwow.

- 7.6 One of the Co-Chairs or designated Member of the Working Circle shall contact the nominee to advise them that they are the recipient of the award and confirm attendance for the presentation of the award.

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## **8.0 Award Gift**

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- 8.1 The Award Gift to be presented to the selected nominee shall be a Star Blanket at a cost not to exceed the amount approved annually by the CAO. These funds shall be processed as a donation as per the City of Dryden Donations Policy MU-CO-12.
- 8.2 The Dryden Native Friendship Centre shall arrange for the creation of a Star Blanket by a member of the community either in the City of Dryden or the surrounding communities who is Indigenous and has the skills and knowledge to make a Star Blanket that reflects the recipient's contributions to the community in keeping with the Award's Policy Statement.
- 8.3 The Star Blanket shall be presented to the Nominee during the Dryden High School Ogimaapiness Leonard Sky Memorial Powwow by two members of the Working Circle.
- 8.4 The Star Blanket demonstrates great respect, honour, and admiration for the recipient. The giver (City of Dryden Working Circle) of the blanket holds the individual in very high regard, and when placed on the recipient, it is wrapping them with respect and admiration. The Star Blanket also brings good dreams, prosperity, and protection.
- 8.5 The City of Dryden plaque that lists all past recipients of the award shall be engraved annually with the recipient's name. The City of Dryden shall cover all related costs. The plaque will be re-hung at City Hall for public display.
- 8.6 The City of Dryden shall prepare a media release and post to the City of Dryden Social Media channels notice of the recipient's name following the presentation ceremony at the Dryden High School Ogimaapiness Leonard Sky Memorial Powwow.

History			
<b>Approval Date:</b>	February 10, 2025	<b>Approved by:</b>	By-law 2025-9
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