

**Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge**  
**Request for Proposals**  
**Legal Services for Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge**

**1. Overview**

Following the enactment of An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families (FNIMCYF), Cowessess First Nation ratified its own child welfare legislation, the Miyo Pimatisowin Act, in March 2020. The Miyo Pimatisowin Act reflects the Nation's inherent jurisdiction over child and family services.

Through the Miyo Pimatisowin Act, Cowessess First Nation created a new agency called Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge. Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge (CRBCL) is the organization responsible for child and family programs and services. CRBCL's jurisdiction includes all citizens regardless if they reside on- or off-reserve and also includes people living on-reserve that are not citizens of Cowessess First Nation.

A copy of the Miyo Pimatisowin Act can be found here: <https://www.cowessessfn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Cowessess-First-Nation-Miyo-Pimatisowin-Act.pdf>

**2. Background to the Request for Proposals**

Following the successful completion of a coordination agreement, the CRBCL Board of Directors (the Board) has reviewed its impending services and constitutional foundation. The Board has resolved to invite proposals from available legal service providers for the development of a registry of firms/individuals to be accessed based on the best interests of CRBCL. CRBCL reserves the right to engage specific legal counsel on any issue.

Legal service providers are cautioned that this is a Request for Proposals. The lowest, or any other particular proposal, may not necessarily be accepted. The selection of winning proposals is entirely at the option of the Board.

This document is intended to assist interested and qualified legal service providers (applicants) in the preparation of a proposal. Applicants are cautioned to pay particular attention to the requirements outlined in this RFP including the evaluation criteria as set out in section five.

**3. Scope of Legal Services Required**

The Board is legally responsible for enforcing the rights and obligations of CRBCL and at times may require legal services, sometimes urgently and/or unexpectedly, in relation to the following:

- a) Litigation services – whether advancing or defending claims;
- b) The creation and expansion of dispute resolution processes which are informed by Indigenous legal traditions;
- c) Employment law and human resource matters, including advice on employment contracts, human rights matters, wrongful dismissal claims, and other related employment law matters;
- d) Privacy, cybersecurity and information access laws and frameworks;

- e) Corporate and governance matters including the pursuit of a legal identity outside of the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act or any other not-for-profit provincial legislation;
- f) Family law and child protection matters including:
  - an Act respecting FNIMCYF;
  - the effect of FNIMCYF legislation in relation to other provincial and/or territorial legislation;
- g) Any other legal services that the Board may require.

These services are to be provided at the direction of the Board or any officer as may be authorized or designated by the Board for such purposes.

#### **4. Budget**

The average number of hours likely to be required for legal service is, as of yet, unknown. As such, the legal services required by the Board will be contracted on a non-exclusive and “as needed” basis with no guarantee of any volume of work.

Applicants are requested to advise of their proposed hourly rate for services. Applicants may bid on all, or just one, of the services listed in section three and are asked to clearly indicate which services they are bidding on.

The Board plans to enter into an initial one-year retainer agreement with the intent of entering into subsequent agreements, provided the Board remains satisfied with the quality of work provided.

#### **5. Criteria for Selection**

The selection of legal service providers will be made by the Board. The weighted criteria to be applied in this decision includes (but is not limited to):

- I. Clear demonstration of experience and expertise that will enable legal service providers to carry out the duties listed in section three;
- II. Confirmed commitment of capacity to undertake the work described herein;
- III. Strong allyship in the development of Indigenous laws and trauma-informed practices;
- IV. Clear commitment of ensuring Indigenous representation among employees;
- V. Experience with Indigenous entities involved in related legal matters, as listed in section three, is considered essential;
- VI. Please provide a minimum of three client references including contact information. It is preferable that the references reflect different elements of the scope of work that are identified in section three. In addition, references who are First Nations and/or Indigenous entities are encouraged to be included;
- VII. Although fees are a factor, the assessment will also include which proponent will deliver the greatest value to the Board.

Note: Verification of qualifications and legal standing will be required. All proposals submitted must be signed to attest to the information submitted.

## **6. Application Process**

Please forward your response to this Request for Proposal to the attention of:

Johnathan Lerat, CRBCL Board Chair & Eva Coles, CEO

P.O. Box 381

Cowessess, SK S0G 5L0

Email: [jonathan.lerat@cowessessfn.com](mailto:jonathan.lerat@cowessessfn.com); [eva.coles@cowessessfn.com](mailto:eva.coles@cowessessfn.com)

Office: 306-696-5010

Fax: 306-696-5012

Responses must be received by 4:00p.m. **July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, please note, all submissions will be receipt-confirmed.

All business dealings between the applicant and the Board will be conducted through the single point of contact. Full contact details for the firm's main point of contact must be provided.

If you should have any questions on the Request for Proposal, please feel free to contact Eva Coles at [eva.coles@redbearlodge.ca](mailto:eva.coles@redbearlodge.ca) or Johnathan Lerat at [johnathan.lerat@cowessess.com](mailto:johnathan.lerat@cowessess.com)

**Please include the reference number when applying: RE: (Reference Number- 20212501)**

*Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge Board of Directors thanks all applicants for their interest.*