

Item 7.1.1



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MEMORANDUM

TO: HRM Grants Committee
CC: Peter Greechan, Jennifer Weagle
FROM: Peta-Jane Temple, Finance
DATE: October 28, 2015
SUBJECT: **Meeting of December 7, 2015: Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program**

With the cancellation of the Grants Committee for November, we were unable to provide members with information regarding the launch of the new *Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program* in advance. However, I will request that this item be added to the agenda for the December 7 meeting. In the interim, enclosed is a copy of the program policy (administrative order) and Council report, the guide for applicants, and a copy of the application form. The program has been advertised in the Municipal Public Notices section of the Chronicle-Herald and officially opens Friday, October 30th, 2015.

At the December meeting I intend to ask for the committee's consideration in **accepting any referrals from the 2015 Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program to the 2016 Community Grants Program** for the following reasons:

- In 2015, the new program's application deadline is December 18, 2015. This timing is to allow for a review of applications, committee recommendations, and Council's decision prior to the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2016). For those applicants not recommended for funding there would be insufficient time to provide them with notification in advance of the 2016 *Community Grants Program* application deadline of March 31st.
- Referrals would only be made if: (i) the organization is eligible, (ii) the project is eligible, and (iii) the type of expense is eligible for consideration under the *Community Grants Program*.
- Any referral would not be automatic; the informed consent of the applicant must be obtained. Further, applications that received a low score and not recommended for funding on this basis would not be advanced so as to avoid any perception of misleading an applicant. However, the evaluation criteria differs between the two programs and a developmental grant in a smaller under the *Community Grants Program* amount might be appropriate in some circumstances.

For clarification, the *Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program* does not replace an existing municipal grant program. An eligible organization may elect to not apply to the designated program and instead apply to another municipal program – to exclude them from consideration would require an amendment to existing policies. The *Community Grants Program*, for example, has funded projects related to the Halifax Explosion in prior years and I anticipate that we shall continue to receive applications either based on timing, evaluation criteria, familiarity etc.

Department of Finance

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Staff in attendance at the December meeting will be happy to address any questions and we will keep the committee apprised as we progress through the implementation of this new program.

Please feel free to pass along information on this new program or refer any inquiries to the Grants & Contributions web site at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/grants.php> , to Peter Greechan (490.7310) or myself (490.5469).