

Councillor Request for Information

Included on Agenda

(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office
by Noon Thursday)

Added Item

(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office
by Noon Monday)

Date of Council Meeting: May 27, 2003

Subject: Resolution Federal Charitable Status for Community Volunteer Groups
and Associations

Request:

I would like to have this item included on the Council agenda of May 27, 2003.

Reason:

For Council approval of the resolution on Federal Charitable Status for Community Volunteer
Groups and Associations. This will be presented at the FCM Conference at the end of May.

I would like this response as:

- Email to Mayor and/or Councillor/Municipal Clerk's Office
- Memo to Mayor and/or Councillor/Municipal Clerk's Office
- Information Report to Community Council Regional Council
- Recommendation Report to Community Council Regional Council

Russell Walker
Councillor (*Name*)

15
District (*Number*)



**RESOLUTION RESPECTING
FEDERAL CHARITABLE STATUS
FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

WHEREAS many volunteer organizations in the **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** have submitted applications to Revenue Canada for Federal Charitable Status and have not received acknowledgment of submission or have not been granted approval

AND WHEREAS many volunteer organizations strive to gain financial independence through fund-raising efforts and rely on the ability to issue tax receipts to sponsors/donors for contributions, the volunteer organizations are limited or restricted in their efforts and success as they cannot issue tax receipts

AND WHEREAS community organizations are faced with ever increasing responsibilities to maintain operational funding it is critical that Revenue Canada recognizes the relevance and importance of Federal Charitable Status

AND WHEREAS a criteria established for Charitable Status dictates that community organizations dedicated and currently serving a “special population” i.e. youth at risk, drug abuse, homelessness will be approved, it is equally important to address community organization serving a specific target group with the intention to offer a preventative service and are currently not approved

AND WHEREAS Federal Charitable Status may be a determining factor in receiving additional funding contributions through government agencies or grants, corporate sponsors or local businesses

AND WHEREAS Revenue Canada can play an important role in supporting community organizations by reviewing their application process, enhanced communication with community organizations through follow-up after receiving and reviewing an application

AND WHEREAS community organizations contribute a tremendous service and direct benefit to their community and Municipalities as a whole, it is in the best interest of the Municipalities to endorse and represent community organizations regarding this priority issue which will increase the potential of financial independence and success for community organizations so the direct community benefit of their service can be maintained and enhanced

THEREFORE be it resolved that the following list of recommendations be considered for approval at the FCM May 2003 meeting.

1. To review and simplify the Revenue Canada application process for community groups seeking Federal Charitable Status.
2. To work with Revenue Canada in efforts to establish an understanding and recognition of the necessity of acquiring Federal Charitable Status for community groups.
3. To advocate for the change in the criteria on behalf of community groups offering preventative services to specific target groups so that they are eligible for Federal Charitable Status.