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MEMORANDUM

TO: HRM Grants Committee
CC: Bruce Fisher, Brad Anguish, Greg Keefe
FROM: Peta-Jane Temple, Finance
DATE: September 10, 2014
SUBJECT: **Community Grants Program 2015**

Further to the agenda and reports distributed in advance of the committee meeting of December 1, 2014, I request the committee's consideration of the following:

1. Withdraw Item 7.1.2 Community Grants Program: Proposed Revisions to Community Arts & Crafts Sector Funding Criteria.

Rationale: A process is underway to examine municipal funding to the professional arts sector, including a proposed arts advisory committee; although the implementation of the interim *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* commenced in 2014 the program could possibly be amended further with input from an advisory committee.

It is our intention that the Grants Committee review the proposed sector allocation of the *Community Grants Program* budget allocation at a future meeting, prior to the evaluation of submissions. These allocations are discretionary and are not a fixed expenditure. Conventional practice has been if there are insufficient applications or submissions that do not score sufficiently on merit funds may be re-assigned to applicants in other sectors. The allocations should be considered in relation to the intended outcomes and priorities. The purpose of the initial allocation is simply to manage expectations, guide the review process, and to a degree moderates differences in the capacity of applicants.

2. The Community Grants Program Guidebook for 2015 be amended with a generic statement included in "General Eligibility Criteria" to read: "**Preference may be given to applicants not otherwise in receipt of government funding (Federal, Provincial or Municipal)**". This statement would apply to all funding categories.

Rationale: The aim is to gauge the combined value of public funding and may be interpreted to provide preference to those organizations that are largely self-funded and/or categories that have limited access to government funding programs, both operating and project-specific.

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