

Councillor Request for Information

✓ Included on Agenda

Added Item

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

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

Date of Council Meeting: March 28, 2006

Subject: Endorsement of East Dartmouth Community Centre Application

Request: Please include the above item on the agenda for March 28, 2006

Reason: On September 29th 2005 the province of Nova Scotia responded favourably to an application for \$1.1 million towards the East Dartmouth Community Centre project by the Dartmouth East Recreation Centre Society, a legally registered non-profit group. This project is led by the group with the assistance of HRM staff. The project has been on the books for 20 or more years and has repeatedly been recognized by studies as a high priority project in an area which has no indoor facilities owned by HRM, few, if any easily available public spaces available outside of HRM owned facilities, and is proposed to be located in an area of high need and very low average low income. The facility would serve primarily East Dartmouth (Districts 6 and 7) however many of the proposed programs and facilities would also provide missing support to portions of other districts in eastern HRM.

Council has approved \$1.1 million towards the project, has assigned staff, and has endorsed various reports on project timelines, needs assessments, and location over the past 2 years. Most recently council awarded an RFP for architectural services and the associated timeline which calls for the construction tender to be put out in June 2006 with a targeted opening of the facility in 2007.

In October of 2005 Council was advised the society had met with the federal minister for ACOA and had subsequently been advised project funding would be supported by the federal government for the balance of \$1.1 million which will complete the public funding component to this project.

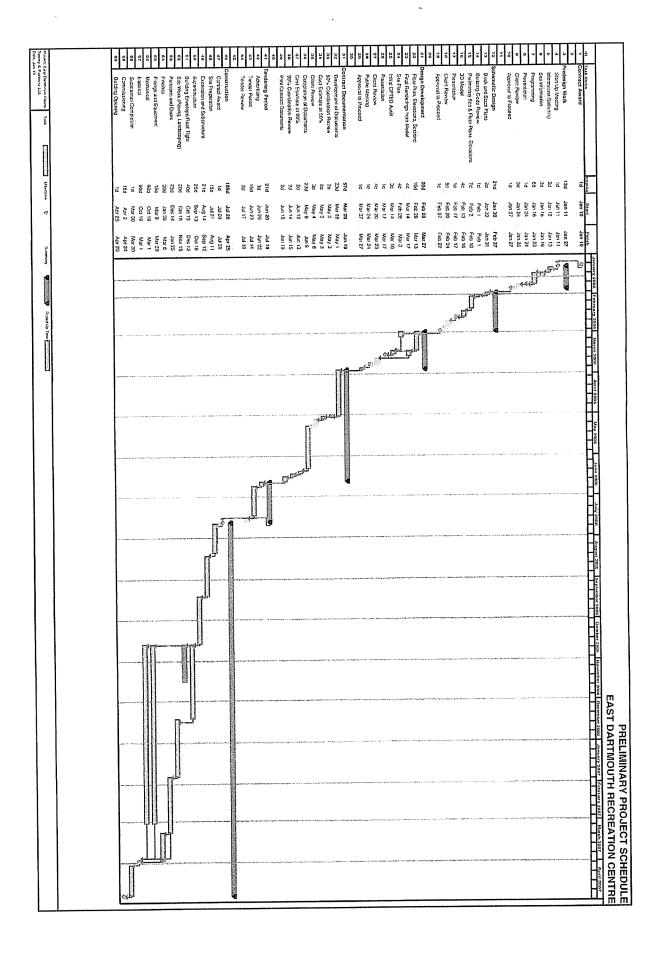
With a change in government federally the society waited for a response from the new ACOA minister, Peter McKay. ACOA and Minister McKay have indicated their interest and support for the project to the society, and most recently a letter was received indicating that the society should now submit an application to the strategic MRIF funds. ACOA and provincial representatives have advised the society that the funds remain allocated as per the previous government pending application and endorsement from HRM Council. This is a fund representing 20% of the MRIF contribution to Nova Scotia and is a competitive process for any project in Nova Scotia. While no guarantee of funding can be made, all indications are that all parties provincially and federally, and ACOA, look upon this project favourably.

Former Premier Hamm, and current Premier MacDonald have lobbied on behalf of this project and were instrumental in securing the provincial contribution which represented additional dollars following to HRM. Additionally, the provincial legislature has passed a unanimous resolution endorsing this project.

Attached to this Agenda Item are some of the recent documents related to this file, including the most recent correspondence from Minister McKay asking the society to apply at this time to formalize the process, a letter from MP Savage indicating the status of the previous commitment, the project timeline, and the letter of funding from the Province of Nova Scotia.

I would like this response as:

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Counc	illor	District (Number)		





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Halifax Regional Municipality/East Dartmouth Recreation Centre Society c/o Bob Nauss
PO_Box 1749
Halifax NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Mauss: Bol.,

I am writing in response to your request for funding dated February 7, 2005. I am pleased to indicate that following a review by Nova Scotia Health Promotion (NSHP), a grant of \$1,100,000.00 has been approved for the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)/East Dartmouth Recreation Centre Society (EDRCA). This funding has been made available through the Strategic Initiatives Fund and will be paid out in three equal payments starting this 2005–06 fiscal year. The purpose of this grant is to assist in the design and construction of the East Dartmouth Recreation Centre as described in your application.

This commitment is conditional upon the following specific terms:

- Cost overruns are the sole responsibility of the recipient.
- A Financial Statement outlining construction costs incurred must be submitted to NSHP at the completion of the project. A Financial Statement Form is available from the NSHP's Central office in Halifax.
- The Applicant agrees that an appropriate tendering process will be followed in all circumstances where more than one supplier of goods and services is believed to be available. The Applicant shall ensure that all tendering practices and transactions represent fair market value and are transparent, open, competitive, accountable, and consistent with the intent of the procurement policies of the Province of Nova Scotia. Where a tender is awarded to other than the lowest bidder, the Applicant shall provide a report including complete accounting, rationale, and resolution by the Applicant's Council.
- The Applicant shall ensure that all regulatory, licensing, and permit requirements of all applicable government agencies are satisfied in the completion of the Project.
- By accepting this grant, the Applicant agrees to indemnify and save harmless Nova Scotia
 from and against any and all claims, damages, loss, cost and expenses, which Nova Scotia
 may incur or suffer as a result of, or arising out of, any injury to persons, or loss or damage to
 property of others alleged to be caused or suffered by reason of or in connection with the
 project.

- The Applicant shall maintain adequate all-risk insurance coverage on all buildings, structures, machinery and equipment and public liability insurance of not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) during the term of construction and not less than eighteen (18) months thereafter.
- The Applicant will acknowledge that the project was assisted by Nova Scotia Health Promotion in all of its news releases, presentations, advertising, Websites, and publications.

I would ask that you direct all information and inquiries pertaining to your grant to Farida Gabbani, Senior Director, Nova Scotia Health Promotion. She can be reached by mail to 200-5516 Spring Garden Road, Halifax NS B3J 2V2, or by phone to (902) 424-7554.

I would like to express my best wishes to the HRM and the East Dartmouth Recreation Centre Society on the completion of this very exciting project.

Sincerely,

Rodney MacDonald

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Minister

c. Simon Gillis, Chairperson

Scott Logan, Assistant Deputy Minister
Farida Gabbani, Senior Director
Carol Davis-Jamieson, Central Regional Representative

Michael Savage, M.P. Dartmouth - Cole Harbour ONSTITUENCY OFFICE
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February 6, 2006

OTTAWA OFFICE

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CONFEDERATION BUILDING

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FAX: (513) 995-9379

E-mail: Savage Mi@parl gc.ca

Honourable Peter McKay, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Minister for Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. I wish you all the best as you embark on your new responsibilities.

I write with respect to a project in my riding of considerable importance to the community, the Dartmouth East Community Centre. The Centre will be a focal point for the surrounding area, providing a venue for physical activity, community meetings, as well as, housing the East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Chub.

In order to build the centre, the community has sought funding from the various levels of government. As you may be aware, your provincial colleague, the Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Health Promotion, announced on Septimber 21, 2005, a provincial contribution of \$1.1 million for the centre, towards to all project costs of \$3.3 million.

At the same time, I had been working on the federal level with your pre-lecessor in the ACOA portfolio to identify the Centre as a priority for the Government of Canada under the new Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). At you know, the MRIF was signed just prior to the recent election.

Under the MRIF there exists a Strategic Initiatives (SI) component which provides funding for projects such as the Dartmouth East Community Cenne that are of strategic importance across the province. Under the SI component both the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia can identify provity projects and your predecessor at ACOA, the Hon. Joseph McGuire, had dentified the Dartmouth East Community Centre as a priority for the Government of

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Canada, and indicating federal support would flow from the MRIF agreement signed on November 24, 2005. I would urge you to maintain this priorite status and provide Government of Canada funding to this project.

I would welcome the opportunity to invite you to my riding to see first I and the positive impact the Dartmouth East Community Centre will have for the community. I would also be willing to meet with you or arrange a meeting with the community group at your convenience. I believe after reviewing this file you will see the great value that this Centre will bring to the people of Dartmouth East.

Sincerely,

Mike Savage, M.P.

Dertmouth-Cole Harbour

Cc:

Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Health Promotion
His Worship Poter Kelly, Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality
Simon Gillis, Chair of the East Dartmouth Recreation Centre Society
John Knubley, Vice President – Nova Scotia, ACOA
Andrew Younger, Councillor, East Dartmouth – The Lakes
Bill Karsten, Councillor, Portland – East Woodlawn
Joan Massey, M.L.A. Dartmouth East
John Burton, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of East Dartmouth

Minister

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency



Ministre

Agence de promotion économique du Canada atlantique

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Mr. Michael Savage, M.P. Dartmouth-Cole Harbour Paddler's Cove 300 Prince Albert Road Suite 106 Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 4J2

Dear Mr. Savage:

Thank you for your letter of February 6, 2006, in regard to the Dartmouth East Community Centre. I appreciate your congratulations and good wishes on my recent appointment to Cabinet.

I found your letter very informative with respect to the Dartmouth East Community Centre and have noted your support for this project as well as the provincial contribution of \$1.1 million.

As you are no doubt aware, the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) agreement was signed by Canada and Nova Scotia on November 24, 2005, and the municipalities were invited to submit applications by February 15, 2006. Following initial evaluations of these proposals, it is expected that the Management Committee will meet to consider recommendations for project approvals. I will ensure that the Management Committee is informed of your support for the Dartmouth East Community Centre.

I have asked Mr. Paul Owens, from the Agency's Nova Scotia regional office, to contact the project proponent to ensure the appropriate documentation is completed in order for this project to be considered under the Strategic Initiatives component of MRIF. In the meantime, he may be reached at (902) 426-7337.



Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

Peter G. MacKay

c.c.: Premier Rodney MacDonald, M.L.A

His Worship Peter Kelly, Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality Simon Gillis, Chair of the East Dartmouth Recreation Centre Society John Knubley, Vice-President, ACOA Nova Scotia

Andrew Younger, Councillor, Portland-East Woodlawn

Joan Massey, M.L.A., Dartmouth East

John Burton, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of East Dartmouth