

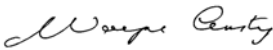
**Item No. 10.1.1**

**Halifax Regional Council  
May 25, 2010**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

  
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Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Operations

**DATE:** May 19, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program

**ORIGIN**

Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program - Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Information Report to Council August 11, 2009, updating Council on various federal infrastructure funding programs and the status of applications made under the programs.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Parks Canada for a contribution of up to \$425,000 for Memorial Tower National Historic Site and for a contribution of up to \$250,000 for Halifax Public Gardens National Historic Site;
2. Transfer funding in the amount of \$85,500 from capital account CBX01046 - City Hall Stone Restoration to CPX01230 - Dingle Tower-Restoration Plaques;
3. Increase capital account CPX01230 - Dingle Tower-Restoration Plaques by \$75,000 for Parks Canada cost sharing beyond 2009/10 budget assumptions;
4. Authorize staff to withdraw the City Hall funding application under the Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program for the reasons outlined in the discussion section of this report.

## **BACKGROUND**

In January 2009, Parks Canada's Cost-Sharing Program was announced under the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The Program is a contribution program that can pay up to 50% of eligible costs incurred by the owner to conserve a national historic site.

In April 2009, the following conservation projects were submitted:

### **Memorial Tower National Historic Site of Canada**

Masonry restoration/conservation program for Memorial Tower (stabilization of plaques, stabilization and repointing of masonry Tower walls)

### **Halifax Public Gardens National Historic Site of Canada**

The Victoria Jubilee Bandstand requires structural stabilization in order to ensure its continuous and safe use as a working bandstand. Additionally, some of the replacement materials and methodology used during the 1970's restoration have radically altered its appearance and the character-defining elements. The proposed treatment will ensure a structurally sound bandstand and will return its form and material to a more appropriate time-frame.

### **Halifax City Hall National Historic Site of Canada**

Conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of the exterior masonry fabric of the building to a safe and durable condition, respecting the heritage character of the building.

## **DISCUSSION**

On April 30, 2010, staff received confirmation from Parks Canada that all three applications were approved for the funding amounts as follows: (\$425,000 - Memorial Tower); (\$250,000 - Halifax Public Gardens); (\$425,000 Halifax City Hall). With respect to the Halifax Public Gardens, Parks Canada has encouraged HRM to re-apply to the program for work that was identified for future years (i.e. Victoria Jubilee Fountain, Urns and Vases). Staff were also advised that assistance through Parks Canada's Cost-Sharing Program is made possible in part through funding under the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan. As a result, all three projects are required to be completed by March 31, 2011. When the applications were submitted, the completion deadline was five years from the start date once a project was approved.

Staff have researched funding capacity for matching funds for this year as well as capacity to meet the March 31, 2011 deadline to complete the projects. With respect to the City Hall application, staff have determined that the work proposed over a 5-year plan cannot be completed by the March 31, 2011, deadline. This is mainly due to the fact that there is a commitment to spend \$2M of Stimulus funds on City Hall restoration by the end of March 2011. Staff are not confident that the scope could be increased by another \$850,000 and work completed by the end of the March

deadline. As a result, staff are proposing to withdraw the application at this time and to re-submit an application for funding to the program in October 2010.

Staff have concluded after investigation that the remaining two projects (Memorial Tower and Public Gardens) can be completed by the March 31, 2011 deadline. However, funds will need to be reallocated from other sources to match the federal funds. The table below describes the proposed funding plan:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Project</b>	<b>HRM Contribution</b>	<b>Parks Canada Contribution</b>
Memorial Tower (Dingle)	\$850,000	\$425,000	\$425,000
Public Gardens	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed 2010/11 capital budget includes \$900,000 for Public Gardens upgrades in account CPX01193. \$450,000 was approved through the Advanced Capital Project Funding Policy.

Capital project CPX01230 - Dingle Tower-Restoration Plaques was approved in the 2009/10 capital budget for \$700,000, with \$350,000 of the funding anticipated to come from Parks Canada. Parks Canada has approved the project to receive \$425,000 in funding and HRM must increase its contribution to meet the 50% cost sharing rule under this program. HRM currently has its own source funding of \$350,000 for the project and has incurred ineligible expenditures of \$10,500. Additional funds amounting to \$85,500 will be required to match federal cost-sharing. Account CBX01046 - City Hall Stone Restoration has been identified as having capacity to contribute the required funds. The budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

### **Budget Summary:**

#### **Capital Account, CBX01046 - City Hall Stone Restoration**

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$1,290,446.96
Less: Transfer to CPX01230	<u>(\$ 85,500.00)</u>
Balance	\$1,204,946.96

#### **Capital Account, CPX01230 - Dingle Tower-Restoration Plaques**

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$ 689,500.00
Add: Transfer from CBX01046	\$ 85,500.00
Add: Parks Canada cost-sharing in excess of budget	<u>\$ 75,000.00</u>
Balance	\$ 850,000.00

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved, there will be an increase to the gross capital budget but not the net.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

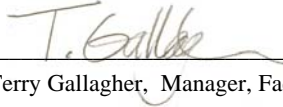
Council could choose to withdraw all three applications.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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