

November 3, 2015

Grants-in-aid for local community organizations announced for 2016

At its Nov. 2 meeting, City Council approved 19 grants valued at more than half a million dollars to support Campbell River not-for-profit organizations.

Council endorsed the Community Partnership Committee's recommendation to approve \$579,614 for 2016 grant funding, a 1.8 per cent increase over 2015.

"Council's support of the Community Partnership Grant program has helped develop a strong arts and cultural component in our community, which has in turn enhanced the quality of life for our citizens, and the demand for funding continues to grow," says Kevin Weighill, vice-chair of the Community Partnership Committee. *"This year, the Community Partnership Committee received 25 applications for grants-in-aid. Requests for 2016 grants-in-aid totaled \$678,914, exceeding the grants-in-aid budget cap by \$34,871. We spent two full days in meetings reviewing the applications and made our recommendations based on the requests that best met Council's policy."*

The Community Partnership Committee makes recommendations to Council on applications for grants-in-aid and permissive tax exemptions. Grants-in-aid applications are evaluated each fall so that applicants can establish their budgets for the following year. Organizations applying for a grant-in-aid are expected to have at least 50 per cent of their funding come from other sources. Council policy sets the total dollar cap for eligible grants-in-aid at 1.7 per cent of the previous year's general revenue operating budget.

"Again this year it was apparent during presentations that the biggest challenge facing our local organizations is uncertainty and in some cases cutbacks in provincial government funding," Weighill adds.

The committee recommended that Council approve grant requests at 2015 levels except for the following:

- A one-time \$6,000 grant to the Genealogy Society to assist with the purchase of archiving equipment.
- A one-time \$3,000 grant for the Maritime Heritage Society to complete an archiving project.
- A one-time \$5,000 grant for the Discovery Passage Aquarium to assist with the purchase of a new dome aquarium.
- A one-time \$1,500 grant for the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association to assist with public relations and communications.
- A one-time \$1,000 grant to assist with Volunteer Campbell River's Non-Profit fair.
- A \$1,300 increase to the Museum at Campbell River for continued stewardship of the Roderick Haig-Brown House. The Committee noted that the Haig-Brown grant had not seen an increase in over 8 years.
- A \$2,500 increase for the Campbell River Art Gallery to support outreach programs at community events.
- A \$3,000 increase for Greenways Land Trust to help increase a volunteer coordinator position.
- A \$1,600 decrease to the Shoreline Arts Society, as requested by the organization.
- A \$1,500 grant to the Shoreline Arts Society to assist with ongoing carving maintenance.
- Removal of the annual grant to the Ishikari Twinning Society, noting that Council has endorsed direct funding for Twinning from the annual financial plan.

The committee also recommended that facility rental grants-in-aid be increased from a current maximum of \$500 to \$1,000 noting that the same rental cap had been in place for over 10 years.

The committee's report to Council with full details of its recommendations is available on the City's website (www.campbellriver.ca) under the *Agendas and Minutes* link on the homepage.

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