

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: April 23, 2024
REPORT: 24-044
FROM: Legislative Services
FILE: 1850-20-2024
SUBJECT: 2024 COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING REPORT

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate Services and Public Safety be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council approve the 2024 Community Enrichment Program (CEP) grants, which are funded from the general operating revenue, and direct staff to take all steps to provide the CEP grants to the organizations as outlined in the table below:

No	Organization name	Funding amount	Funding allocation
1	Axeman Rugby Club	\$2,400	Coaching and administration cost for Whistler Secondary and Elementary School outreach programs.

That Council approve the 2024 CEP grants, which are funded from the general operating revenue, and direct staff to take all steps to provide the CEP grants to the organizations as outlined in the table below:

No	Organization name	Funding amount	Funding allocation
2	Whistler Youth Soccer Club	\$6,000	House Team coaching wages and tournament fees.
3	Whistler Slo Pitch Association	\$2,000	Purchase of helmets.
4	Whistler Youth Baseball Club	\$1,200	Purchase of equipment.

That Council approve the 2024 CEP grants, which are funded from the general operating revenue, and direct staff to take all steps to provide the CEP grants to the organizations as outlined in the table below:

No	Organization name	Funding amount	Funding allocation
5	BC Luge Association	\$1,100	Purchase of jackets for the athletes.
6	Whistler Sport Legacies Society	\$5,000	Payment of coaches' wages and two spots for Multi Sport summer camp.
7	Whistler Blackcomb Freestyle Ski Club	\$4,625	Coach Development.

That Council approve the 2024 CEP grants, which are funded from the general operating revenue, and direct staff to take all steps to provide the CEP grants to the organizations as outlined in the table below:

No	Organization name	Funding amount	Funding allocation
8	PearlSpace Support Services Society - PEACE	\$9,000	PEACE Program.
9	PearlSpace Support Services Society - Whistler Drop-in Centre	\$15,000	Parent-Tot Drop-in Program.
10	Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society	\$5,000	Coordination and oversight of program materials, supplies and promotion.
11	The Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC	\$5,000	Five TALK sessions in Whistler.
12	Sea to Sky Community Services Society	\$5,000	Whistler Playgroup program facilitator wages.
13	Whistler Community Services Society	\$25,000	Access to counselling services for Whistler community members.
14	Whistler Mature Action Community (MAC)	\$2,000	MAC sessions and seminar series.
15	Whistler Multicultural Society - Multicultural Community Kitchen	\$5,000	Community Kitchen program.
16	Whistler Multicultural Society - Resilience Whistler	\$4,000	Resilience Whistler program.
17	Zero Ceiling Society of Canada - Work 2 Live Program	\$2,000	50% of the alumni crisis response emergency support program.
18	Whistler Farmers Market	\$4,000	Sustainability and First Nations reconciliation (50% of both programs).
19	Whistler Independent Supported Housing Society	\$2,000	Enhancement of organizational visibility within the community.
20	Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment	\$5,500	\$5,000 for the GROW program and \$500 to support the Keela Annual Subscription.
21	Whistler Naturalists - BioBlitz	\$3,500	BioBlitz - with a focus on youth programs.
22	Whistler Naturalists - Fungus Among Us	\$3,500	Fungus Among Us - with a focus on youth programs.
23	Whistler Naturalists - Bird Studies	\$1,000	Bird Studies program.
24	Sea to Sky Nordics	\$4,000	\$3,000 purchase of equipment for Biathlon programs. \$1,000 Indigenous programs and reconciliation.
25	Whistler Adaptive Sports Program Society	\$7,500	Bursaries.
26	Whistler Gymnastics Club	\$3,060	Purchase of new gym floor plywood.
27	Whistler Mountain Ski Club	\$2,300	NCCP courses and cross training with Canadian Ski Instructors courses. Para Coaching Module fees.
28	Whistler Nordics Ski Club	\$4,000	Coaching and cross-country ski program administration.
29	Whistler Sailing Association	\$4,300	Purchase of new jibs for existing fleet.
30	Whistler Sea Wolves Swim Club	\$2,500	Accounting and administrative costs, training equipment and junior coaching program expenses.

31	Whistler Skating Club	\$5,000	\$250/coach for Ice Summit registration. \$300 for CanSkate supplies. 50% for coach certification (National Coaching Certification Program). \$1,000 for coaching.
32	Whistler Field Hockey Club	\$1,700	Purchase of equipment.
33	Whistler Wolves Rugby League Football Club	\$1,500	Transportation to away games.
34	Yoga Buggy	\$1,500	Yoga classes for kids and their families.
35	The Point Artist-Run Centre Society	\$4,000	50% of the summer concert cost. 50% for the grant writer's fee.
36	The Whistler Writing Society	\$3,000	Honorarium payment for guest author during Whistler Writers Festival.
37	Whistler Singers	\$2,000	Purchase of a choral riser.
38	Whistler Valley Quilters' Guild Society	\$2,000	Supplies and instructor fee for a two-day quilter workshop.
39	Whistler Chamber Music Society	\$2,000	Performance fees during Whistler Chamber Music Society concerts.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to request that Council approve the 2024 Community Enrichment Program (CEP) grant amounts listed in the recommendations above.

Information Report

Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

Each year, the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) financially supports local not-for-profit organizations or societies that support and benefit the Whistler Community through the CEP.

Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program (CEP Policy), attached as Appendix A, outlines the rules for awarding grants. The most important provisions from the CEP Policy are as follows:

- Applicants must operate in one of the following categories: Environment, Community and Social Services, Recreation and Sport or Arts and Culture.
- Applicants must be a registered society or charity.
- Grant amount cannot exceed 50 per cent of the program budget.

Approval of a funding application in any year does not guarantee approval in subsequent years.

The CEP Policy was updated in January 2024 with the following changes and additions:

- CEP applicants should outline any activities undertaken to engage in Truth and Reconciliation with the Lílwat and/or Squamish Nations.
- Youth sporting organizations receive funding based on the number of youth participating in the program to provide consistent funding across all community sporting groups.
- Presentations at the Committee of the Whole Meeting (COTW) are one minute per application.
- Applicants who receive fee for service funding from the RMOW are not eligible for CEP.

Analysis

In 2024, the RMOW received 39 CEP applications from 35 organizations, requesting a total of \$288,572. As in previous years, the total amount requested far exceeded the amount available in the CEP budget. The 2024 CEP budget amount is \$180,504, representing 0.182 per cent of the total RMOW operating budget. Within the CEP budget, a minimum of \$6,000 is allocated for scholarships that are awarded to Whistler Secondary School graduating students.

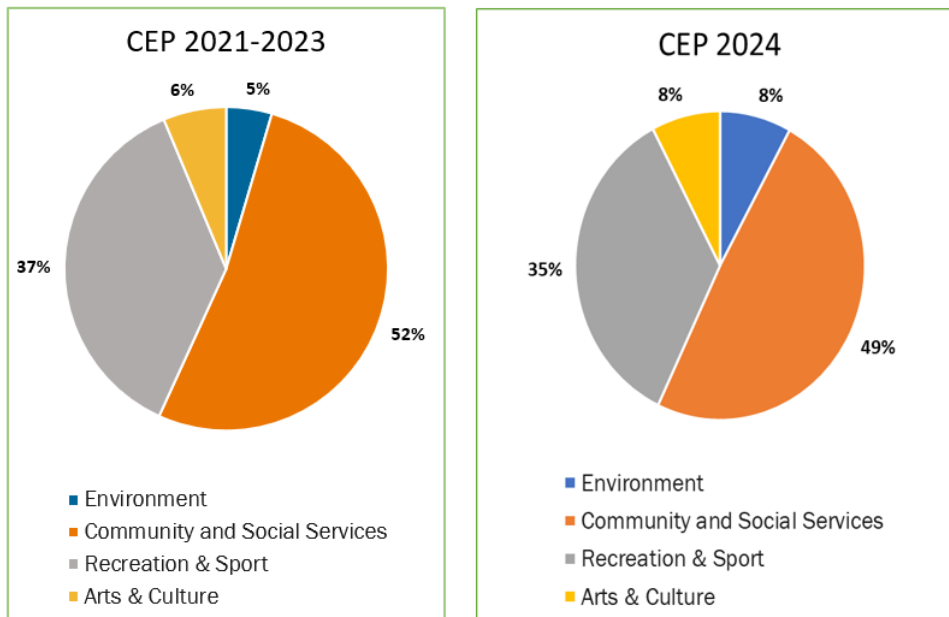
Council received copies of all the applications, and the applicants made presentations to Council during the [COTW](#) on March 5, 2024.

The RMOW Staff Advisory Group’s (SAG) evaluated the applications based on several factors including:

- Total number of active members;
- Total number of Whistler residents/members;
- For sporting organizations, number of youth participants;
- Other RMOW contributions, including:
 - Permissive Tax Exemptions 2023;
 - Value In Kind support;
 - Lease Agreements with RMOW;
 - Other funds from various RMOW Departments; and
- Other existing funding and grant applications.

Based on all the information presented, staff are recommending the grant amounts as listed above for the described purposes.

The distribution of the CEP funds has remained quite consistent from 2021 through to 2024. The Community and Social Services category receives the largest funding amount, followed by Recreations and Sport, Arts and Culture, and Environment, as represented by the charts below:



POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions

The CEP grants are based on the following policy and legal establishment:

- CEP Policy; and
- *Community Charter*: Council may provide CEP funding to any not-for-profit organization or society pursuant to Section 8(2). “A municipality may provide any service that the council considers necessary or desirable and may do this directly or through another public authority or another person or organization”.

Applicants delivered a presentation to Council at the March 5, 2024 [COTW](#).

2023-2026 Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priorities

Housing

Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing

Climate Action

Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan

Community Engagement

Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW

Smart Tourism

Preserve and protect Whistler’s unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure

Not Applicable

Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs

Community Vision and Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW’s most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

The OCP’s vision statement emphasizes that Whistler is a place where our community thrives. Through funding provided to organizations benefiting the RMOW, the CEP contributes to moving Whistler society in that direction. The CEP aligns with several of the goals, policies and objectives in the OCP given that CEP applicants must operate within one of the following categories: Community and Social Services, Environment, Recreation and Sport, or Arts and Culture. This alignment is evident in the following chapters:

Chapter 8 (Health, Safety and Wellbeing) focuses on ensuring that Whistler has strong community connections and social fabric. The following objectives are supported through provision of funding to the various community services organizations:

Objective 8.10.1 – Promote initiatives for youth and young adults that support their developmental needs, health, well-being and social connections.

Policy 8.10.1.1 - Encourage services, programs and facilities in Whistler that support the *health* and social needs of youth and young adults, including programs with a focus on mental health and education about substance use and abuse.

Objective 8.10.2 – Promote initiatives for senior that support their health, well-being and ability to be a valued part of the community.

Policy 8.10.2.1 - Encourage services, programs and facilities that support the health and social needs of seniors, with a focus on cultural and recreational opportunities and social programs tailored to the needs of Whistler’s seniors.

Chapter 9 (Learning, Culture and Recreation) focuses on outdoor and indoor recreation and programs. The following goal, and supporting objective, is reinforced by provision of CEP funding to the recreation organizations:

Objective 9.6 - Continue to work collaboratively with partner organizations to provide quality recreation and leisure amenities and experiences.

Policy 9.6.2 - Non-profit third-party recreations service providers thrive, complement resort offerings and contribute to the social well-being of residents and visitors.

In addition, the following objective, and associated policy, are supported through the provision of funding to arts and culture organizations:

Objective 9.2.2 - Increase opportunities for education, participation and enjoyment of Arts, Nature and Heritage for residents and visitors.

Policy 9.2.2.1 - Support non-profit and private sector efforts to increase opportunities for individuals to learn about and participate in Arts, Nature and Heritage.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The CEP budget is a percentage of the total RMOW operating budget (0.182 per cent) which remained the same in 2024. This year the CEP budget is \$180,504.

Costs to administer the CEP Program are included in the Legislative Services budget.

LÍLWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lílwat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler’s resort economy.

The CEP Policy requires applicants to outline how their programs engage with the Lílwat Nation and/or the Squamish Nation. This question was added to the CEP Application Form in 2024 and reads as follows: “how has your organization addressed truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Nations?” Organizations have addressed question regarding their engagement with First Nations. Notable examples include:

PearlSpace Support Services Society - In January of 2024, PearlSpace and Stqaka7stumc Lílwat Transition House came together to participate in the Reducing Barrier Supporting Women with Varying

Levels of Mental Wellness & Substance Use facilitated by the BC Society of Transition Houses at the Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre (SLCC). In February 2024 staff participated in Decolonization training to ensure the safety and participation of Indigenous People and People of Color in difficult conversations and topic matter to recognize, support and respect the emotional labor that Indigenous People put into helping non-Indigenous people to understand colonization and reconciliation.

Zero Ceiling Society of Canada - The organization created “Zero Ceiling Auntie” role. “Auntie” is an Indigenous elder from a nearby First Nation who gives maternal unconditional love, guidance, and cultural support to program participants and staff. Moreover, Zero Ceiling holds monthly J.E.D.I (Justice, Equity, Decolonization, Inclusion) meetings where they talk about inclusion and reconciliation.

Whistler Farmers Market - First Nations vendors are present at the market selling their products. Whistler Farmers Market are actively reviewing their application process to minimize barriers to allow more Indigenous vendors to participate in the market.

Whistler Naturalists - Delivers presentations on environmental protection to Xet'ólacw Community School in Mount Currie, fostering connections with youth and educators from the Lílwat Nation.

Sea to Sky Nordics - Will provide access to Laser rifles that can be used for safe introduction to biathlon with the help of Biathlon Canada. The organization aims to implement a school laser rifle demonstration project across the Sea to Sky region, which will involve Lílwat (Mount Currie).

Many other organizations provide land acknowledgments on their websites, social media platforms and in email signatures. Furthermore, they acknowledge National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on social media platforms and promote SLCC events and activities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

The whistler.ca/cep website serves as the primary communication platform for the CEP. This website features a calendar with essential dates and timetables related to the CEP. The CEP Policy can also be found on the website, alongside the 2024 CEP application package. Each year, after the Council adopts grant allocations, the successful applicants are displayed on the website along with the funding amounts awarded to them.

Notices for the 2024 CEP application period were placed three times in the Pique Newsmagazine. In addition, courtesy emails and phone calls were made to all organizations that had applied for CEP funding in the preceding two years.

To notify the Whistler community about the CEP grants, a notice will be published in the Pique Newsmagazine with the organization names and grant amounts. Additionally, this information will also be available on the whistler.ca/cep website.

Organizations that receive more than \$10,000 are required to write a press release and distribute it to local media, post it on that organization's website, and share it on their social media platforms. The press release should outline the project supported by the CEP Funding and acknowledge the RMOW's contribution. Many organizations receiving less than \$10,000 also acknowledge the RMOW's support and inform the community about their programs.

REFERENCES

Appendix A - *Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program*

SUMMARY

Through the CEP, the RMOW annually provides grants to local not-for-profit organizations or societies. In 2024, 35 organizations requested support for 39 different programs.

This report seeks approval of the recommended funding, which is based on applications, presentations from each applicant organization, and recommendations from the RMOW Staff Advisory Group.

SIGN-OFFS

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