

Community Grant Program

Policy and Guideline Updates

Benefits of the Community Grant Program

- Improves quality of life and community wellbeing
- Provides/supports diverse services , initiatives and events
- Empowers capacity building and community engagement
- Provides a collaborative approach
- Maximizes positive impact with limited resources



Why the Change?



- Funding levels seen as inadequate
- Grant support vital to event success and community investment
- Clearer communication
- Evaluation criteria need to be improved and clarified
- Fee waivers are not viewed as being equivalent to a grant

Before and After

Current Program	Update Program (January 2026)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 grant streams- Community Projects, Neighbourhood Projects and Special Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4 grant streams- Climate Change Investment integrated into the Community Grant program- Now, "Environmental Stewardship" funding stream- Community Projects changed to Community Investment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defined Special Event approval system not in place- Special Events did not have a maximum level of support- Unclear supports for events with a fundraising component	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Special Event Classification process in place- 4 long-standing events will be supported as they have historically, despite their level of support being beyond the Signature Event classification- 2 long-standing events will be supported despite fundraising efforts for a national charity, but having a significant local component

Budget Consideration



- Limited Budget Growth
- Proposed \$66,000 increase (2026)
- 2026 Budget process

Next Steps

- Renew existing 3-year special event agreements
- Develop application process
- Launch communication and awareness campaign



Questions?

