

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair and Members of the Community and Corporate Affairs Committee

FROM: Warren Harris, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks

DATE: October 4, 2019

MEMORANDUM NO.: MEM RP-2019-0008

RE: Investing in Canada: Community, Culture and Recreation Stream

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this Memorandum is to advise Council on the application being submitted by staff for the Investing in Canada: Community, Culture and Recreation Stream grant application.

BACKGROUND:

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is a cost-shared infrastructure funding program between the federal government, provinces and territories, and municipalities and other recipients. This program combines federal, provincial and other partner funding in four priority areas, including Community, Culture and Recreation.

On September 3, 2019 the Province of Ontario launched the Community, Culture and Recreation stream to support community infrastructure priorities across the province, improving access to and / or quality of community, cultural, and recreation priority infrastructure projects. Submissions to the program are due on November 12, 2019.

COMMENTS:

Funding Program Details

Under this intake of the Community, Culture and Recreation funding stream, the Province is seeking applications for community infrastructure priorities; these are defined as publicly accessible, multi-purpose spaces that bring together a variety of different services, programs and/or social and cultural activities to reflect local community needs.

Approximately \$407 million in federal funding and \$320 million in provincial funding will be available for the Community, Culture and Recreation stream over 10 years starting in 2019-20. The cost sharing breakdown is as follows; Federal Government (40%) Provincial Government (33.33%) and Applicant (Town) Contribution (26.67%).

The Program has two funding categories. The Multi-Purpose Category has an individual project cap of approximately \$50 million in total project cost or new build / construction projects, larger scale renovation or expansion of existing facilities. The Rehabilitation and Renovation Category focuses on small-scale projects that would improve the condition of existing facilities, with a project cap of \$5 million in total project cost.

Project Eligibility and Timing

The Community, Culture and Recreation stream supports projects that improve access to and / or quality of community, cultural, and recreation priority infrastructure projects. Priority is given to projects that are community-oriented, non-commercial and open to the public. Projects must be completed prior to 2027-28.

The objectives for the current proposed Community, Culture and Recreation stream project intake are as follows:

- Meets community and user needs or service gap
- Promotes good asset management planning
- Represents good value for money
- Fosters greater accessibility

The intake will include two categories of funding: Multi-Purpose Category and Rehabilitation and Renovation Category

To be eligible, a project must include a capital component and may also include preconstruction planning and design work (but not as stand-alone projects). Projects must be publicly accessible and meet the outcome of improving access to and/or increasing quality of cultural, recreational and/or community infrastructure.

Applications and all supporting documentations must be submitted by November 12, 2019. The province will notify applicants if their project has been selected for nomination to the federal government for review and approval in winter 2020 (estimated). Applicants will be notified of the federal funding decision in spring/summer 2020 (estimated) and all projects must be completed by March 31, 2027.

Project Conditions

The following conditions apply to eligible projects:

- Contracts must be awarded after federal approval of funding. Contracts awarded before approval of funding are not eligible for reimbursement;
- Projects must meet or exceed any applicable energy efficiency standards for buildings outlined in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change;
- Projects must meet or exceed the requirements of the highest published accessibility standard in a jurisdiction in addition to applicable provincial building codes and relevant municipal by-laws and accessible design guidelines;
- Projects should be informed by an applicant's asset management plan as outlined in Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure Regulation, O. Reg. 588/17;
- Projects must have a financial plan in place to operate the assets and not seek senior level government support for ongoing operational funding.

In addition, projects will be assessed on their alignment with specific technical criteria related to community need, demographic assessment, "good value for money" and accessibility. Staff will be drawing upon the resources included in the Town's Corporate Asset Management Plan and Corporate Energy Plan to demonstrate alignment with the key criteria.

Project Submission

Staff recommend that Gellert Community Centre Phase 2 aligns well with the recreation facilities category (multipurpose recreation centres) and is the project with the largest financial need identified in the Long Range Financial Plan and Capital Budget. In addition to the project cost for the expansion, staff will identify costs related to the renovation of the existing Gellert Community Centre in order to align with objectives of the Corporate Energy Plan. The total cost of the expansion project and energy efficiency components (e.g. solar and geothermal) would be close to \$25 million, with the Town's portion of the cost at approximately \$6.7 million or 26.67%.

The other major project that staff considered was the Youth Centre at the Acton Town Hall, but given that the space is leased and does not have the requisite technical supporting documents (E.g. asset management plan) it was not selected for the November 2019 funding stream application.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that a submission for Gellert Community Centre be made to the Investing in Canada: Community, Culture and Recreation stream by the submission deadline of November 12, 2019. The major capital project aligns with the key objectives of the program criteria, and with a background in asset management and corporate energy planning, staff are well positioned to meet the submission requirements.

Reviewed and approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brent Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'B'.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer