

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee
From: Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Date: 2018-10-11
File No: 1850-01

Subject: Hospital District & Regional District Sponsorship of Community Events

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Regional and Corporate Services Committee of information pertaining to the options available for Board sponsorship of community events. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND

At the September 25th Hospital District Board meeting the Board was presented with a sponsorship request letter from the Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation and their third annual "It's a Wonderful Breakfast" fundraiser. The goal of this event is to raise funds to support the purchase of a new CT Scanner at Chilliwack General Hospital. The Hospital District referred the letter back to Staff with a request to bring back information to October RACS regarding sponsorship of community events.

DISCUSSION

Hospital District

The type of items that may be funded under the Hospital District Act is quite limited. Specifically, Section 20 states that the purpose of a regional hospital district is to establish, acquire, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, operate and maintain hospital and hospital facilities or to grant aid to achieve these purposes. The HDA does not allow for the Hospital District to include funding for items outside of hospital or hospital facilities unless the minister designates an institution or facility in the health field as a health facility. With this in mind, there is currently no opportunity for the Hospital District to consider sponsorship of community events.

Regional District

There is more flexibility under the Local Government Act regarding what a regional district can fund. Specifically, Section 332 (1) allows the regional district to operate any service that the board considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the regional district. Section 263(1)(c) allows the board to provide assistance for the purpose of benefiting the community or any aspect of the community. Based on Section 263 the Board adopted the Regional Grant-in-Aid (GIA) policy in 1999 to help guide funding decisions. In order to allow the Board the ability to respond to community sponsorship requests in a timing fashion, the Board would need to support the establishment of an annual budget for the Regional GIA program, something that is currently not in place. Recent history has seen the Regional GIA program be reserved for very large contributions to regionally based health related facilities. An informal survey of regional districts came back with a number of positive responses regarding the establishment of Regional GIA programs to provide their Boards with the ability to address these type of requests.

COST

If the Board decides to establish an annual Regional GIA program to provide opportunities in sponsorship of community events, there will be a resulting taxation requisition impact. Given this would be spread out over the regional assessment base, the impact per average residential property would be small. For example, to generate a budget of \$10,000 would be between \$0.04 and \$0.08 per average residential property (the average is different throughout the regional district).

CONCLUSION

In response to a request from the Hospital District Board, Staff have presented information pertaining to the Hospital District and Regional District Boards' ability to support community events through sponsorship funding. The HDA is quite limiting while the LGA does provide the Regional Board with a funding opportunity.

COMMENT BY:

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported