

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: November 8, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities and Events

SUBJECT: Update – Legion Request for Remembrance Day

ATTACHMENT(S):

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated November 8, 2023 from the Director of Civic Facilities and Events titled “Update – Legion Request for Remembrance Day”

PURPOSE:

To provide follow up information to Council on the October 30th, 2023 request for Remembrance Day funding from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43.

BACKGROUND:

On October 30th 2023, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43 came before Council as a delegation requesting funding to support the 2023 Remembrance Day Ceremony. A motion was made by Council for “Administration to return a report to Council at the November 20, 2023 regular meeting regarding the request for financial support from the Royal Canadian Legion Prince George Branch 43 and including information on the scope of financial support already committed by the City.”

The annual Remembrance Day Ceremony begins in the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre and follows with a parade to the Cenotaph at Veteran’s Plaza where the ceremony concludes.

The City of Prince George currently financially supports the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43 as well as all not-for-profit organizations through the discount rental rate for civic facilities through the City’s Fees and Charges Bylaw. Since 2003, the City of Prince George has also provided the Legion with an annual rental subsidy in the amount of approximately \$2500 to be applied to the discount rental rate for the Conference and Civic Centre. Although varied throughout the years, additional in-kind support and services have been provided, such as day-before and day-of set-up time, labour (Statutory Holiday rates), security costs, equipment, and plaza and park rental. While not normally permitted under our Food and Beverage agreement with our contractor, Administration has negotiated the allowance of the Legion bringing in outside food and beverage for this event.

For the 2023 Remembrance Day Ceremony, without the cash and in-kind support provided by the City of Prince George, the actual charge based on the discounted non-profit rates would be \$7,909

(plus tax). With the subsidy and in-kind support, the final amount being charged to the Legion is \$989 (plus tax). This is a similar situation and amount charged to the Legion for the past 20+ years.

In discussions with the Legion since the October 30th, 2023 Council meeting, they have received donations to cover costs for the 2023 Remembrance Day Ceremony. The Legion would like Council to provide the Conference and Civic Centre, and the in-kind supports and services, at no charge beginning with the 2023 Ceremony.

In addition to the in-kind and cash support given to the Legion annually, the City provides alternate grant opportunities that Legion is eligible to apply for (such as the MyPG Grant). The City's grants are adjudicated based on specific criteria for each grant and, and funding allocated depending on the grant funds available and the number of applications received. Staff are available to guide the Legion to the appropriate granting streams available.

The City's Sustainable Finance Policy 5.2 requires organizations who are applying for financial assistance to demonstrate:

- a. The programs or projects for which they're applying for financial assistance will contribute to the attainment of the City's objectives.
- b. They have a need for financial assistance to operate the programs or projects.
- c. The level of public benefits provided by the proposed programs or projects is proportionate to the private or commercial benefits of the proposed programs or projects.
- d. In operating their programs or projects, they maximize partnerships, cooperation, or coordination with other community organizations.
- e. They have an inclusive approach and actively encourage potential beneficiaries of the programs or projects to participate in them.
- f. They adhere to acceptable standards of governance and accountability.

Staff is currently working with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43 in order to provide this detail.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Social Health and Well-Being

Maximize the quality of life for all residents.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Legion has confirmed that the amount of the original requested funding is no longer needed for the 2023 Remembrance Day Ceremony due to generous donations. The City currently provides approximately \$8,000 annually to the Legion in cash and in-kind support to support this event. Full venue cost with the current in-kind supports and services would be approximately an additional \$1,000, with future years being dependent on cost increases.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The City currently provides the Legion with a subsidy and in-kind support for the Remembrance Day Ceremony. In future years additional funding could be applied by the Legion by submitting a grant application through one of the City's current grant streams or Council Contingency. On behalf of Council and our entire City, Administration is proud to provide a great deal of support and assistance to the Legion for Remembrance Day Ceremonies, and looks forward to continuing to ensure the success of this important annual event.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities and Events

PREPARED BY: Debbie Heywood, Manager Event Services

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager
Meeting Date: 2023/11/20