



OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

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Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
PO Box 9896 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9T9

Via: TACS.minister@gov.bc.ca

January 31, 2024

Dear Minister Popham,

We write to offer suggestions for improvements to the Community Gaming Grant program. We are grateful to your ministry for stewarding the program which has contributed annually to not-for-profit organizations throughout B.C. to support their delivery of services. In our minds, this is one of the most vital transfers the province undertakes to help communities meet their diverse needs.

Through conversations with community not-for-profits, and in reviewing the 2012ⁱ program review and 2016ⁱⁱ Auditor General's report, we would like to highlight two simple ways in which the program may be further improved. Namely, the provision of stable multiyear funding and a general increase in the value dispersed.

We ask that your ministry consider providing multi-year funding, through a three-year budget model, or similar multi-year structure that includes the ability to carry over unspent funds. The details could be determined in collaboration with recipient agencies. This provides some financial assurances and greater ability to address projects and issues over multiple years. This request has been maintained by many groups and remains one of the outstanding recommendations from the 2012 review.

We would also ask that the distribution of greater funding through the Community Gaming Grant program be undertaken. The value presently distributed does not appear to meet the threshold established under the original MOA in the 1990's, nor has it kept pace with inflation. In our review, the value in fact appears lower than those experienced at the start of the last decade.

With the not-for-profit community increasingly taking on expanded service delivery as overlapping crises in health, addiction, housing, and cost of living, stretch our institutions, we ask that this review be undertaken to support our partners in helping address these crises. We would be happy to assist with such a review if your ministry is interested in connecting with non-profit agencies in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Prince George City Council

CC: Coralee Oakes, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Shirley Bond, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Mike Morris, Member of the Legislative Assembly

ⁱ Community Gaming Grant Review: Options for improving the program and for providing predictability to grant recipients (2012).

ⁱⁱ BC Auditor: An Audit of Community Gaming Grants (2016).