

Date: February 11, 2026

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Andy Beesley, Director, Civic Facilities and Events

Subject: 2026 Canadian Native Fastball Championships

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation(s):

That Council APPROVE financial support of the 2026 Canadian Native Fastball Championships with funding in the amount of \$118,000 in monetary funding and up to \$60,000 in-kind and that these funds come from the Major Events Reserve, as described in the report dated February 11th, 2026, from the Director of Civic Facilities and Events titled “2026 Canadian Native Fastball Championships.”

Purpose:

For Council’s approval to support the Spruce City Men’s Fastball Association in hosting the 2026 Canadian Native Fastball Championships. As a non-profit organization, the Association is requesting financial assistance to host the tournament which is scheduled to take place from July 30th to August 2nd, 2026.

Background:

The Spruce City Men’s Fastball Association has successfully hosted the Canadian Native Fastball Championships in both 2016 and 2022. For each of these events, Council approved in-kind funding to cover parks services costs, including field rentals and field upgrades necessary to host a tournament of this calibre. In addition, monetary funding was approved for contractor costs for items such as portable toilets, dumpsters, and garbage and recycling bins. The Major Events Reserve was used to financially support both of these past events.

In 2022, additional funding was approved to purchase a portable backstop and fencing required to adapt Rotary Field to meet the specific standards necessary to host the national championships.

The Spruce City Men’s Fastball Association has been working with Tourism Prince George and City staff to identify items required to host a successful championship in 2026.

Discussion:

The 2026 Canadian Native Fastball Championships are expected to generate approximately \$5 million in direct economic impact for the City of Prince George. The three-day tournament is expected to have up to 80 teams, bringing more than 1,200 athletes plus friends and families for an estimated total of 2,500 people coming into the community for this event. Given the scale of the event and its significant economic contribution, it qualifies for funding through the City's Major Sport Event Program (MSEP). The MSEP is designed to support organizations in accessing City of Prince George funding and in-kind support for events that fall outside the scope of the SportPG Hosting Grant, which is intended for events generating low to moderate economic impact.

Parks Operations staff will be responsible for rebuilding fields to meet the standards for hosting this national level event. The costs for staff time and materials have been included in the value-in-kind request, which also includes facility rental charges.

The event will require additional garbage cans, dumpsters, portable toilets, and related supplies to support an event of this scale. Cost estimates have been obtained for these items, as well as for additional fencing needed to further modify the existing diamonds to meet national fastball standards.

Financial Consideration:

Spruce City Men's Fastball Association has requested, and Administration recommends, that Council approve financial support of up to \$60,000 in-kind to cover City of Prince George rental fees and operational costs for required field rebuilds, and up to \$118,000 in monetary funding to be used for event services costs, umpire fees and the purchase of additional required fencing, and that the funds come from the Major Events Reserve.

Strategic Priorities:

City Government and Infrastructure

Build a strong foundation for growth

Advance reconciliation through collaborative action on shared priorities

Social Health and Well-Being

Create a complete Community that welcomes people of all abilities and backgrounds.

Promote the use of public spaces as places for outdoor community connection.

Economic Diversity and Growth Priorities

Build a strong, diverse and resilient economy

Promote Prince George as a place for business to thrive

Summary:

The Canadian Native Fastball Championships align strongly with the objectives of the 10-Year Sport Tourism Strategy and Major Sport Event Program. Hosting an event of this calibre will attract a substantial number of participants and spectators to the community, filling hotels and restaurants, supporting local businesses, and providing a significant boost to the local economy.

Respectfully submitted:

Andy Beesley, Director, Civic Facilities and Events
Prepared by Lindsay Timmermans, Event Coordinator

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2026/02/23