



STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, B.C., V2L 3V9

DATE: March 29 2016

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

FROM: KATHLEEN SOLTIS, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: 2019 International Paralympic Nordic World Championships

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT Council approve that the City of Prince George provide financial support of up to \$250,000 toward the hosting of the 2019 International Paralympic Nordic World Championships, with funding to come from the Major Events Reserve, should the club's bid to host the championships be successful.

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with information concerning the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club's Intent to Bid submission to the International Paralympic Committee to host the 2019 IPC Nordic World Championships and to request that Council approve financial support of up to \$250,000 toward the hosting of the championships.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The 2016-2018 Corporate Plan contains several sections that are applicable to this report. The Social Development section contains the goals of Clear Identity and Pride, Cultural Richness, Equity and Inclusion, and Health and Wellness. The Economic Development section contains the goals of Diversified Economy, Vibrant Economy, and International Connections and the City Government section contains the goals of Sustainable Infrastructure and Sustainable Fiscal Management.

BACKGROUND:

The Caledonia Nordic Ski Club was approached by Cross Country Canada and asked to consider hosting the 2019 World Championships on behalf of the International Paralympic Committee. The CNSC, with help from City of Prince George and Tourism Prince George staff, submitted an "Intent to Bid" application on April 10, 2016, to host this two week event at Otway Nordic Centre and supporting locations in Prince George.

The legacy goal of the CNSC, the City of Prince George and Tourism Prince George collaborating to bid on and, if successful, host the 2019 IPC Nordic World Championships would be to continue to establish Canada, the City, and the Club as desired hosts for high level competitions. In addition, the City would aim to create positive economic impact and the Club would aim to contribute to continued growth in capacity and venues to support athlete development.

The event includes standing, sitting and visually impaired cross country and biathlon competitions. As a result of communications with Cross Country Canada and information regarding the 2015 IPC Nordic World Championships held in Cable Wisconsin, the Intent to Bid was based on event participants including: 150 athletes, 25 of whom could be wheelchair users; 80 National Paralympic Committee Team Officials; 7 International Paralympic Committee Championship Officials; and 80 to 100 sport officials/volunteers for field of play and venue operations.

The tentative schedule for the event would be from Wednesday, February 15, 2019 to Monday, February 27, 2019. Participants would arrive on February 15th; Un-official training would take place on February 16th; Official Training and Opening Ceremonies would occur on February 17th; competitions would take place from February 18th to February 26th; Closing Ceremonies would occur on February 26th; and participants would depart on February 27th. The event's dates would complement the Celebrate Prince George Winter Festival's dates, which would provide greater opportunities for the cultural components of the event.

Tourism Prince George has performed a STEAM (Sport Tourism Economic Assessment Model) Analysis on this event and has determined that it would have a local economic impact of \$1.6 million and a provincial economic impact of \$2.5 million.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A major funding source for the event is fees paid by athletes and support team members which come to the Local Organizing Committee from the International Paralympic Committee, together with responsibility for various levels of transportation, accommodation, catering, and other services. Other funding sources are federal and provincial grants and event sponsorships. Based on the preliminary budget of \$250,000, the maximum exposure (worst case scenario) of the City collaborating with CNSC to host the event would be \$250,000. The most likely case scenario of the City guaranteeing funding for the event, however, would be a maximum of \$50,000.

The recommended City contribution of up to \$250,000 for the event would be funded from the Major Events Reserve. The Major Events Reserve is funded through annual contributions of \$200,000 from the City's Gaming Revenues. The Major Events Reserve has been used to provide funding to events such as the 2015 Canada Winter Games, the 2016 Canadian Native Fastball Championships, and the 2016 BC Midget Tier 2 Championships.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The City of Prince George and Tourism Prince George are providing staff resources to assist the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club to bid and, if the bid is successful, plan and host the 2019 International Paralympic Nordic World Championships. The CNSC has requested and Administration recommends that Council approve financial support of up to \$250,000 toward the hosting of the championships.

Respectfully submitted:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager