

HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 14.1.2
Halifax Regional Council
September 19, 2017

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by 

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: August 28, 2017

SUBJECT: **Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program: Request for
Amendment to Award – Symphony Nova Scotia**

ORIGIN

October 6, 2015 – Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM Respecting the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program approved by Regional Council.

February 23, 2016 – Regional Council approved ten (10) awards under the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program. The awards included “a grant of \$10,000 to Symphony Nova Scotia... to commission an original music composition” with a final report due March 31, 2017.

August 10, 2017 – Symphony Nova Scotia requested the terms and conditions of the \$10,000 grant be amended to accommodate a revision to the scope of their centennial project.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter (2008)

79(1) The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for

(av) a grant or contribution to

(v) any charitable, nursing, medical, athletic, educational, environmental, cultural, community, fraternal, recreational, religious, sporting or social organization within the Province,

(vii) a registered Canadian charitable organization.

Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM Respecting the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1) approve the amended use of the \$10,000 grant by Symphony Nova Scotia to include expenditures in addition to commissioning an original music composition, as set out in the Discussion section of this report; and
- 2) extend the deadline for the final report to March 31, 2018 from March 31, 2017.

BACKGROUND

Symphony Nova Scotia was awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to commission an original musical composition for orchestra and solo soprano to be performed at a special *Halifax Explosion Commemorative Concert* honoring the Halifax Explosion centennial in December, 2017. The Symphony's application to Heritage Canada to undertake this large commemorative project was unsuccessful and notification of this decision was not received until April, 2017. Given this timeline it was necessary to relinquish the larger concert program and performances and pursue an alternative which was to accept an invitation from the Halifax Central Library to perform at an event scheduled for the evening of December 6th, 2017. The event program includes a film screening, music, and readings. The Symphony has an established relationship with Halifax Public Library through its community outreach programming including *Musical Munchkins* (children), small ensemble performances, and free summer orchestral concerts at venues including the Halifax Central, Keshen Goodman, and Woodlawn libraries.

The original motion¹ stated: "A grant of \$10,000 to Symphony Nova Scotia recommended to commission an original composition. A final report due by March 31, 2017". Although staff could authorize an extension to the timeline in accordance with Section 36 of Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM an amendment to the use of the funds requires Council's approval.

DISCUSSION

The commission originally proposed was longer and more complex than the amended proposal, which is to create a musical arrangement to accompany a poem by George Elliott Clarke, Canadian Parliamentary Poet Laureate. This poem was commissioned by Halifax Regional Municipality as part of the Municipal Commemorative Program. Mr. Clarke is expected to be in attendance to recite his poem.

The commission originally envisaged was more expensive. Symphony Nova Scotia is requesting that the funds granted to commission an original composition be reallocated to help them participate in the event hosted by the library and fulfill their commitment to the commemoration. If approved by Regional Council, the value of the grant remains unchanged but the expenditures are amended as follows:

- professional fees for musical arrangement (composer) and any associated license fees;
- professional fees for guest conductor;
- performance fees for contract professional musicians (percussion and additional brass players that are not part of Symphony Nova Scotia's "core" orchestra); and
- associated transportation (eg. equipment and large instruments).

The Symphony's contribution includes the cost of orchestra rehearsals and performance(s), manuscript library, marketing and administration.

¹ Report to January 27, 2016, meeting of the Special Advisory Committee on the 100th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, p.6, Item 6.

Mr. Clarke's poem is expected to be complete by October, 2017. Given the time-sensitivity of Symphony Nova Scotia's request and the time needed to contract personnel, the revised expenditures have been reviewed by Grants & Contributions staff. The amended expenditures are all eligible for funding in accordance with the program's policy.

If approved, the timeline for a final report will be amended to on or before March 31, 2018.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Payment in the amount of \$10,000 was issued to Symphony Nova Scotia from Account M311-8004 in fiscal year 2015-16. The payment has been held by the society pending confirmation of HRM's approval to re-assign the grant to support a modified project.

There are no financial implications in fiscal year 2017-18.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Low. Symphony Nova Scotia has an established reputation for producing original works and performances of high caliber.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could decide not to approve the use of the grant funds for expenditures in addition to commissioning an original music composition. In that event, Symphony Nova Scotia would be required to comply with the use of the funds as originally approved, to commission an original music composition.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, Finance & Asset Management
902.490.5469
