

HALIFAX

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

Item No. 14.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
April 11, 2017

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by 

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 24, 2017

SUBJECT: Request from Community Foundation of Nova Scotia to Partner in the
Community Foundations of Canada 150 Fund

ORIGIN

March 21, 2017 - A motion passed by Regional Council requesting a report on the request by the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia to partner with the HRM Community Grants Program in regard to the Community Fund for Canada's 150th.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Subsection 34(3) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* provides that "The Council shall provide direction on the administration, plans, policies and programs of the Municipality to the Chief Administrative Officer."

Subclause 79(1)(av)(vii) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* provides that "The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for a grant or contribution to a registered Canadian charitable organization."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct the CAO to instruct staff to inform charitable organizations who receive funding from HRM under the 2017 Community Grants Program that they may also be eligible for additional funding from the Community Fund for Canada's 150th offered through the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia.

BACKGROUND

The Grants Committee received a written request from the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia dated February 23, 2017, and included as **Attachment 1** of this report. The provincial foundation is limited in its ability to access the 150 Fund administered by the Community Foundations of Canada because the federal funding requires a matching contribution and the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia has very limited “unrestricted” funds (most are donations with restrictive terms as to how they may be expended). If acceptable to HRM, registered charities in receipt of a grant under the 2017 Community Grants Program would be referred to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia for consideration under the 150 Fund and could leverage additional federal funding for some local charities.

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia does not have a role in the evaluation of applications to the Community Grants Program and likewise HRM will not have a role in the selection of 150 Fund recipients. Grants staff will however assist in this process by making eligible grant recipients aware of this additional funding opportunity by acting as a resource to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia as required. Applications to the 2017 Community Grants program will not be made available to other parties. This request affords mutual benefit to both parties in leveraging federal funding for some local charities whose project also meets the intent of the 150 Fund. It is important to note that eligibility under the Community Foundations of Canada is restricted to Canadian charities.

DISCUSSION

The Grants Committee considered the request from the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia at their meeting of March 6, 2017. The committee passed a motion recommending Regional Council forward the request to staff for a report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Low. HRM will not select, administer or monitor recipients of an award under the 150 Fund. Preferential consideration shall not be afforded registered charities under the Community Grants Program evaluation process. Eligible recipients of a municipal grant under the 2017 Community Grants Program shall be notified of the 150 Fund in the program’s standard letter of notification to award recipients. This notification does not infer an obligation to make application to the 150 Fund or presume additional funding under the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia’s selection process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could decline the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia’s request to facilitate access to the 150 Fund for eligible registered charities in receipt of municipal funding under the 2017 Community

Grants Program.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Letter to HRM Grants Committee from Community Foundation of Nova Scotia dated February 23, 2017.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, FICT 902.490.5469



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FONDATION COMMUNAUTAIRE
OF NOVA SCOTIA
DE LA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE**

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created by and for the people of
Nova Scotia*

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Registered Charitable Number
870389368 RR0001

February 23, 2017

Dear Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Committee:

Community Foundations of Canada and the community foundation network is currently stewarding the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, an initiative supported by the Government of Canada and matched by local community foundations. This national initiative is rooted in the principle that community-led, locally-relevant initiatives are a powerful way of shaping the significance of this milestone for our country.

The Fund seeks to support a broad range of local projects connected to Canada's 150th that build vibrant and healthy communities; encourage community participation; and inspire a greater understanding of our communities and our country; to ultimately work towards a greater sense of belonging, inclusion, and Reconciliation. These projects may come from a wild variety of fields, including arts and culture, the environment, youth leadership, recreation, commemoration, education, and many other areas. To date, the Fund has supported over 700 projects in every province and territory.

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) has been working closely with local organizations and engaging private philanthropists and businesses to help groups in Nova Scotia access these funds. Founded in 2008, the CFNS is a small foundation with few unrestricted funds, and our ability to provide the matching dollars to unlock this opportunity for local organizations has been very limited.

With the desire to ensure that strong projects are supported in the Halifax region, Community Foundations of Canada is willing to recognize an award issued to a charity under the 2017 HRM Community Grants Program as the equivalent to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia's matching contribution, unlocking additional funding for those initiatives that also meet the criteria of the Community Fund for Canada's 150th. This will ensure greater support for local projects while also minimizing additional fund raising effort by local groups. A charity receiving up to \$7,500 from the HRM Community Grants program could access up to an additional \$7,500 through the Fund.

The CFNS has a volunteer selection committee that reviews all applications for the Community Fund for Canada's 150th. In the event that HRM staff could alert charities that receive support through the 2017 Community Grants Program of the opportunity for additional funds, those charities could apply for the Community Fund for Canada's 150th. The CFNS committee would base its final decisions on the criteria for that Fund.

The CFNS understands that the Community Grants Program will not give preferential consideration to charities, but recognizes that there is mutual benefit to both HRM and the CFNS in advising HRM grant recipients of the potential of additional support. Ultimately, there is an opportunity to leverage at least \$60,000 in much-needed support for projects in the Halifax region.

Please feel free to contact Angela Bishop with any additional questions, at [redacted] or [redacted]. We hope that we can make the most of this opportunity for the community in Halifax.

Regards,

Community Foundation of Nova Scotia