



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

**Item No. 12.2.2**  
**Audit & Finance Standing Committee**  
**August 14, 2019**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Audit and Finance Standing Committee

Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Fraser, CFO/Director of Finance, Asset Management & ICT

Original Signed

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Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 11, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Funding Request – The Vimy Foundation

**ORIGIN**

Halifax Regional Council June 4, 2019, Agenda Item 14.1 May 21, 2019 Information Report Funding Request – The Vimy Foundation.

Halifax Regional Council June 4, 2019

Motion approved that Halifax Regional Council refer the funding of a legacy gift in the form of a tree or a bench to be located within the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, France, to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee for identification of a funding source.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*HRM Charter, S.N.S 2008, c.39*

Section 79A

(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if

(a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality; ...

(2) The Municipality may expend money provided for in an operating budget or capital budget for a purpose other than that set out in the operating budget or capital budget for that fiscal year if the expenditure does not affect the total of the amounts estimated for the operating budget and the capital budget.

*Audit & Finance Standing Committee Terms of Reference*

8. The Audit and Finance Standing Committee shall review and make recommendations on proposals coming to the Council outside the annual budget or tender process including:

...

- (c) proposed changes in any operating or project budget items;

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Audit & Finance Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council approve a one-time contribution to The Vimy Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 from Operating Account M310-8004 for the purchase of a “legacy gift”, a Vimy Oak Tree, which will be planted in the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, France.

### **BACKGROUND**

Halifax Regional Municipality received an unsolicited request from the Vimy Foundation in January 2019 requesting the Municipality consider a one-time “legacy gift” in the form of a bench (\$25,000) or tree (\$10,000) to be located within the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, France.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Vimy Foundation was created in 2006. *The mission of the Vimy Foundation is to preserve and promote Canada’s First World War legacy as symbolized with the victory at Vimy Ridge in April 1917, a milestone where Canada came of age and was then recognized on the world stage.*<sup>1</sup> As a centennial project to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge as well as the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the Vimy Foundation created the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, a 4 acre commemorative Park adjacent to the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in northern France. The park officially opened to the public on November 9, 2018, two days prior to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The Park was built on farmland acquired by the Foundation and required extensive preparation (e.g. demining, removal of unexploded ordinance, excavation of old tunnels, etc.) before construction of the Park could commence. Today the Park represents a living memorial as well as public greenspace for surrounding communities. As stated in the Foundation’s correspondence to the Municipality, “the park includes pathways, educational signage, view planes of the Vimy monument, a bronze Bugler, commemorative flagpoles and uniquely designed benches”. An additional feature of the park includes the presence of 100 “Vimy Oaks”. Following the Battle at Vimy Ridge, the area was devastated from the battle. However, a Canadian soldier, Lieutenant Leslie Miller, was able to gather acorns from an oak tree that was “half buried” by the battle and brought them back to Scarborough, Ontario. He planted the acorns in farmland and named the area the “Vimy Oaks Farm”. The Vimy Foundation has been working to repatriate these Vimy Oaks back to Vimy, France, to help preserve Canada’s First World War legacy through the creation of a living memorial<sup>2</sup>.

**Local significance:** On April 17, 2018, A Vimy Oak Tree, a direct descendent of the oak trees that grew at Vimy Ridge before the First World War, was planted in Sullivan’s Pond near the cenotaph by the Nova Scotia Army Cadet League as a living memorial. In keeping with this local initiative staff recommend Regional Council endorse the contribution of \$10,000 to purchase a Vimy Oak Tree for the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park.

HRM’s Contribution of \$10,000 will ensure the planting and care of the “Vimy Oak” as well as a plaque recognizing Halifax Regional Municipality’s contribution. Inscription on the plaque will be determined by HRM and is not limited to text. For example, the inclusion of an “emblem or symbol” may also be

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<sup>1</sup> Vimy Foundation: <https://www.vimyfoundation.ca/about/mission/>

<sup>2</sup> Vimy Foundation: <https://www.vimyfoundation.ca/vimy-100/vimy-oaks/>

incorporated on the plaque. The plaque will be located on the `` In Memoriam and Donor`` recognition wall located within the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park. It should be noted that the inscription is limited to 250 characters.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If approved, the contribution would be funded from the balance remaining in the 2019 Interim Community Museums Grant Program, account M310-8004.

Interim Community Museums Grant Program 2019 Budget	\$220,000
Less Approved Awards	(\$125,966)
Less Recommended Contribution	<u>(\$10,000)</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$84,034</b>

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendation in this Report. The risks considered rate Low.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not Applicable

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Audit & Finance Committee could amend the funding recommendation to select a bench (\$25,000) which is accompanied with a plaque on the bench as well an additional plaque located on the donor wall, or both a bench and an oak tree (\$35,000).

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 Information Report to Regional Council meeting of June 4, 2019.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants & Contributions, Finance, Asset Management. 902.490.7310; Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, Finance, Asset Management

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# HALIFAX

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

## Item No. 14.1

Halifax Regional Council

May 21, 2019

June 4, 2019

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed  
Bruce Fisher, Acting CFO/Director of Finance, Asset Management & ICT

Original Signed by   
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** April 30, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Funding Request – The Vimy Foundation

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

An unsolicited request from the Vimy Foundation for a donation to the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park located in France.

#### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter, S.N.S 2008, c.39

Section 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.

#### BACKGROUND

The purpose of this information report is to notify Regional Council of correspondence received in January, 2019, requesting the Municipality consider a one-time "legacy gift" in the form of a bench (\$25,000) or tree (\$10,000) to be located within the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, France, which opened in November 2018. Gifts are acknowledged with a dedication on a wall that encircles the park interior.

## **DISCUSSION**

Section 79(1)(av) of the HRM Charter permits grants or contributions to non-profit and charitable organizations located within Nova Scotia. This latitude may be appropriately used in cases where infrastructure, a facility, or an initiative serves communities in close proximity to more than one municipal boundary. Notwithstanding Council's ability to fund discretionary interests outside the region, HRM's established grant programs typically restrict eligibility to non-profit and charitable organizations located within the geographic boundary of HRM.

It is rare for contributions to be made to non-profit or charitable organizations or projects located outside the region, but exceptions have been made pursuant to Section 79(1)(vii) of the HRM Charter. For example, a contribution towards the Vimy Memorial was granted to the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia Nunavet Command (headquartered in Dartmouth) and HRM participated in the Downie Wenjack Legacy Room Project through a contribution to the Tides Canada Foundation (Toronto). A donation to the Fort McMurray fire relief effort was in response to a solicitation by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities directed through the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (headquartered in Halifax) of which HRM is a member.

The Vimy Foundation's request does not comply with the eligibility criteria of the Community Grants Program and although there is discretionary authority under the District Activity/Capital Fund these funds are primarily used to support projects or organizations located within the electoral district boundary. Unless Council directs otherwise, the Foundation will be notified that their request falls outside an established municipal grant program.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable. The funding request originates outside an established municipal grant program.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

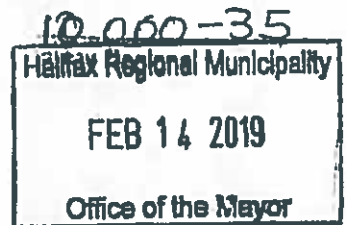
Attachment 1 - Letter from The Vimy Foundation to Mayor Savage dated January 24, 2019.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://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 & ICT 902.490.5469

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C: CAD

January 24, 2019

Mike Savage, Mayor  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Savage,

As Executive Director of the Vimy Foundation, I want to thank you and your city for hosting special ceremonies and activities last year that commemorated the Centennial of the end of the First World War and the signing of the Armistice. A devastating war, the First World War was also an important moment for Canada. Thanks to our contributions, on and off the battlefield, Canada received a negotiating position at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919 and furthered the case for consideration as an autonomous nation.

In 2006, the Vimy Foundation was formed with the mandate of preserving and promoting Canada's First World War legacy, as symbolized by the victory at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Since then, the Foundation has designed and distributed more than 150,000 unique Vimy pins and medals, created high quality education resources for thousands of teachers and schools across Canada, facilitated, funded annual student 'pilgrimages' to Vimy, and completed the \$10 million Vimy Visitor Education Centre in France, opened in April 2017. Most recently, the Foundation opened the Vimy Centennial Park in a ceremony in November 2018, which was visited by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Minister of Veterans Affairs Seamus O'Regan. Please visit [www.vimyfoundation.ca](http://www.vimyfoundation.ca) to learn more about what we have accomplished.

The Vimy Foundation Centennial Park features one hundred Vimy Oaks, descendants of acorns collected from the battlefield by Canadian soldier Leslie Miller following the battle at Vimy in 1917 and is located adjacent to the famous Vimy Memorial. The space was designed by Canadian landscape architect Linda Dicaire, and includes pathways, educational signage, view planes of the Vimy monument, a bronze Bugler, commemorative flagpoles, and uniquely designed benches. It is already well visited and provides a space to reflect the battlefield and the monument.

Elements in the park are 90% sold, and include contributions from corporate Canada, local legions, provinces, NGO's, service clubs, cadets, individuals, and a \$350,000 gift from the Province of British Columbia; however, there is still time for the City of [name] to participate.

I am writing to you to request that the City of Halifax consider a First World War Legacy Gift in the form of a Vimy Centennial Bench (\$25,000) to be placed inside the picturesque and reflective setting of the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, or a Vimy Oak tree (\$10,000), which are planted throughout the park. The City could dedicate either element to local veterans and serving army members and acknowledge the contribution of its citizens to the Canadian war effort in the First World War. The dedication would appear on the beautifully designed wall that encircles the park interior.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about how your city could contribute a one-time, unique legacy gift in honour of Halifaxians who served so bravely a century ago.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed

Caitlin Bailey, *Executive Director (Interim)*  
The Vimy Foundation  
[cbailey@vimyfoundation.ca](mailto:cbailey@vimyfoundation.ca) or 416.595.1917