



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: GRANTS PROGRAM / WILDNORTH

PURPOSE OF REPORT

On December 10, 2019, Councillor Joly provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018 of her intention to make the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motion, it must be formally moved.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That, notwithstanding clauses requiring community groups to be registered in St. Albert to be eligible for Community Services grant programs, WILDNorth be eligible for all such grants for the proportion of their budget allocated to services within St. Albert.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Service Name: Environmental Grants Management

Service Definition: Management and coordination of applications and approvals of the Environmental Initiatives.

Service Component: Environmental Initiatives Grant

Current Service Level: The Fund is approximately \$33,200 based on multiplying the City's population by \$0.50 and is available once a year for community environmental projects. Grants are recommended by the Environmental Advisory Committee and approved by Council.

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

Council Policy C-EUS-02, Environmental Initiatives Grant Program

BACKGROUND:

The operating grant program managed by Community Services is similar to the Environmental Initiatives Grant in so far as providing an open application process with groups applying for single-year funding on an annual basis. There would be no funding guarantee from year to year.

In addition, the eligibility of applicants is restricted to those providing support services in the areas of recreation, culture, and social service. The degree of support in which a group is eligible to apply for is related to where the service they are providing falls on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, with those providing community members with core, essential services necessary for survival, eligible for a greater degree of support. Wild North would not be eligible for funding under this grant program.

WILDNorth has received \$5,000 per year in 2018 and 2019 through the City's Environmental Initiative Grant (EIG), administered by the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). In 2019, the EAC provided Council with a recommendation to provide support to WILDNorth through annual ongoing funding through the City's operating budget rather than to continue to support WILDNorth through the EIG program.

If Council desires to provide WILDNorth with predictable ongoing funding for operations in St. Albert on an annual basis, Administration recommends being directed to bring forward a business case for the 2021 budget. This business case would include provisions for ongoing funding (i.e. achieving certain reporting and operational milestones annually) to continue funding. This can be achieved through a funding agreement, or any other process deemed appropriate by City Council.

Report Date: January 20, 2020

Author(s): Christian Benson

Department: Utilities & Environment Department

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer: Kerry Hilts

Chief Administrative Officer: Kevin Scoble