

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Rural Recreational & Cultural Grants-in-Aid**

#### **1) Introduction**

This policy is intended to supplement the operating and/or capital funds of the rural recreation and community associations in the Peace River Regional District (PRRD). Groups are expected to fundraise for alternate sources of funds.

#### **2) Definitions**

- a) Debt is defined as an amount owed to a person or organization for services, products or loans funds not yet paid for.
- b) Recreation and community organization is defined as any recreational, sporting, arts, cultural or community association.
- c) Rural organization is defined as any organization located within the boundaries of Electoral Areas B, C, D, and E.
- d) Wages is defined as any payment, stipend or honorarium made for labour or services to an employee or volunteer under the direction of an employer or organization.
- e) Capital improvement is defined as the addition of a permanent structural improvement or the restoration of some aspect of a property that will either enhance the property's overall value or increase its useful life.
- f) Capital equipment is defined as equipment valued at over \$5,000 and has an extended lifetime over more than one year.
- g) New applicant organizations are organizations that have not received Peace River Regional District Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid prior to 2012.
- h) Operation funding is defined as funding provided for costs to ensure the day to day operation of a facility such as insurance, utilities, and supplies.

#### **3) Recreational & Cultural Grants-in-Aid Eligibility**

To be eligible for funding, recreation and community associations must meet the following criteria:

- a) Applicant organizations must be rural non-profit registered societies which provide recreation, arts, sports, and/or social activities for the community at large; and
- b) Applications must be submitted directly by the recreation organization or community association/club; and
- c) At least 75% of the applicants' membership must come from the rural areas which they serve.
- d) New applicant organizations located or operating within a municipality must provide proof that at least 75% of their membership comes from the electoral areas of the Regional District.

- e) Organizations who have received Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid prior to 2012 will be grandfathered into the policy and will not be required to maintain a 75% rural membership.

#### **4) Application Process**

- a) Applicants must submit a formal application to the Regional District once per year on or before the last calendar day in January; said application to be substantially completed in the form attached hereto as Schedule 'A'.
- b) Applicants must provide year-end financial statements including an income statement and a balance sheet, plus project and operational budgets and quotes for any individual items valued at over \$3,000.
- c) New applicants must provide proof in the form of a membership list that at least 75% of their membership resides in the rural areas which they serve.
- d) At the pleasure of the Electoral Area Directors for the areas, organizations may apply to more than one area for funding if their recreation and/or community association services are provided to residents in more than one community and that their membership is reflective of this.
- e) Failure to provide adequate documentation during the application process and/or comply with the eligibility requirements for funding assistance may jeopardize funding eligibility.
- f) Late applications will not be accepted without the express written permission of the Electoral Area Director for the area in which the organization is making application to.
- g) Applications from new organizations will be accepted by the Regional District for consideration providing they meet the eligibility requirements as set forth in this policy.

#### **5) Eligible Expenses**

- a) In Electoral Areas B and C expenses for capital improvements and insurance (for the protection of the public) is permitted.
- b) In Electoral Area E West and the Sub-Regional funding areas, expenses for operations and capital improvements are permitted.
- c) Payment of debt and employee wages is not an eligible expense.
- d) At least three quotes (where available) must be provided for all eligible expenses valued at over \$3,000.

## 6) Annual Grant Allocations

- a) At the Directors' discretion, grant allocations for each area may be budgeted and provided for youth travel to which the guidelines are attached hereto as Schedule "E".
- b) At the Electoral Area B and C Directors' discretion, grant allocations from Area B and C may be budgeted and provided for the North Peace Regional Gradfest Society for the purpose of hosting safe graduation related events, to which the guidelines are attached hereto as Schedule "F".
- c) At the Electoral Area B Director's discretion grant allocations from Area B may be budgeted and provided for the North Peace 4-H District Council for the purpose of conducting 4-H activities to which the guidelines are attached hereto as Schedule "G".
- d) At the Directors' discretion, grant allocations for each area may be budgeted and provided for post-secondary scholarships and bursaries to which the guidelines are attached hereto as Schedules "H", "I" and "J".
- e) At the Directors' discretion, grant allocations for each area may be budgeted and provided for the rural recreation volunteer banquet to which the guidelines are attached hereto as Schedule "K".

## 7) Approval Process

- a) The Electoral Area Directors have the sole discretion to accept or reject any application. Applications may be rejected for the following reasons:
  - i. Incomplete or late applications;
  - ii. Failure to maintain society status;
  - iii. Failure to rationalize the need for funding;
  - iv. Failure to prove that the project is in the best interest of the community at large.
- b) Upon approved application by the Electoral Area Director, eligible recreation and community organizations, along with their Electoral Area Directors will meet in the spring of each year to allocate funding to the eligible organizations from the budgeted amount as per the current Financial Plan.
- c) At least one representative from each applicant organization must be in attendance at the adjudication meetings to be eligible to receive a grant-in-aid.
- d) If the total application amount exceeds the annual budget, then the annual budget will be distributed based on consensus of the eligible recreational and community organizations and the Electoral Area Director(s) in attendance at the adjudication meetings.
- e) All organizations that have made an application and have been approved to receive funding by the Regional District will be notified of the meeting date, time and location prior to the meeting.
- f) All applications will be adjudicated based on need and availability of funds in the fiscal year of the established service.

- g) All recommendations of Grant-in-Aid funding allocations must be ratified by the Rural Budgets Administration Committee. The Rural Budgets Administration Committee reserves the right to accept, reject or amend any application at its sole discretion.

## **8) Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid Budgets**

- a) On an annual basis the Directors for each area shall determine the annual budget amount for their area(s) to be included in the Peace River Regional District Financial Plan. This budget amount is subject to Board approval and must be in accordance with tax limitations set forth by bylaw or supplementary letters patent.
- b) A recreational and cultural grants-in-aid budget amount will be provided separately for each area as follows:
  - i. Electoral Area B
  - ii. Electoral Area C
  - iii. Electoral Area E West
  - iv. A defined portion of Electoral Area E and D known as South Peace Sub-Regional as shown on Schedule "L" to this policy and is combined with a service area including the City of Dawson Creek and the Village of Pouce Coupe

## **9) Unallocated Funds**

- a) Any funds that are not allocated from the annual requisition for a funding area shall be utilized to reduce the tax requisition in the next calendar year.

## **10) Unspent Funds**

- a) Organizations must utilize allocated funds within three years of ratification by the Rural Budgets Administration Committee and will not be permitted to carry over funds past three years.
- b) Any funds not claimed by an organization after three years will be returned to the funding area by resolution of the Rural Budgets Administration Committee and utilized to reduce the tax requisition in the next calendar year.

## **11) Claim Reimbursement**

- a) Approved applications will receive funds by claim reimbursement after August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year once funding allocations are ratified by the Rural Budgets Administration Committee.
- b) Approved applications must provide proof of costs by submitting invoices and a completed claim form attached hereto as Schedule 'B'.
- c) All invoices submitted for expense claim reimbursement must be from the same year or later that funds were approved. Claims may not be made for goods or services incurred in the years previous to the grant's approval.
- d) In exceptional circumstances, organizations may request in advance the total or partial payment of the approved grant from the Regional District. If the funds are approved for release prior to August 1st in any year, Regional District interim financing costs will be charged. Organizations must make this request in writing to the Chief Financial Officer.

## 12) Sources of Revenue

- a) Organizations shall be responsible to raise supplementary funds for major capital projects and operations by seeking other funding sources including but not limited to donations, corporate sponsorships, applications to other government agencies or general fundraising.
- b) The Peace River Regional District shall not be a sole source of revenue for any recreation or community association.
- c) Organizations must show in their application all sources of revenue.

## 13) Annual Reports

- a) All organizations that receive Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid must complete an Annual Report as attached hereto as Schedule “C” by the last calendar day in January to be submitted with their Grants-in-Aid application.
- b) Funds for the current year will not be reimbursed to an organization until any outstanding Annual Reports for that organization have been received by the Regional District.
- c) Photos must be provided showing capital projects completed with Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid funds.

## 14) Funding Amendments

- a) Organizations may apply for funding amendments by completing the Funding Amendment Form attached hereto as Schedule ‘D’, and only in such circumstances that:
  - i. they have completed their project with the funds allocated and they have outstanding funds remaining; or,
  - ii. an emergency has arisen and failure to remediate the problem will result in an inability to operate.
- b) The Rural Budgets Administration Committee will have the sole discretion on whether to approve or deny any funding amendments.
- c) Funds cannot be amended to pay off debt.

## 15) General

- a) Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid policies can only be made by the Rural Budgets Administration Committee and are subject to Board approval as set forth in Bylaw no. 1166, 1998.
- b) Organizations hosting annual recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid meetings will be paid a hosting stipend.

**16) Limitations**

- a) Tower Lake Community Association is not eligible to receive Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid as they are outside of the existing service area.

**17) Recognition**

- a) Grant recipients will recognize the financial contributions of the Regional District by prominently displaying a certificate or plaque.
- b) Associations that maintain websites, social media sites and/or membership newsletters will provide Regional District with recognition in the form of prominently displaying a note of thanks next to the Regional District's logo.
- c) Grant recipients may be requested to issue a joint press release and photo with the Regional District from time to time.