



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2008 Recreation Allocation Recommendations

<b>Date:</b>	May 12, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Librecz, General Manager Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### **SUMMARY**

---

This report presents the recommended allocations for all community organizations that have applied for 2008 recreation funding through the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division. The division administers two recreation grants programs under the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP): The Recreation Partnership and Investment Program (also known as Majors), which funds multi-service agencies that provide ongoing programs at the local neighbourhood level; and the Minor Recreation Investment Program (also known as Minors), which funds primarily small to medium organizations that offer leisure or sports activity to local communities.

The budget for Majors and Minors totals are \$1,377,370, with \$1,007,495 earmarked for Majors and \$369,875 for Minors.

A total of 134 organizations applied for funding. The 2008 recommended allocations for Majors is \$1,007,495. The 2008 recommended allocations for Minors is \$353,175, with \$16,700 set aside for the appeal process.

The absence of an appeals amount for Majors reflects the full use of the program's current funding capacity. It is not likely that any of the currently funded agencies would refrain from requesting grant support that sustains their on-going programs. On the other hand, the appeals amount for Minors is reflective of the lack of resources in smaller community organizations, which often results in late and incomplete applications. These issues contribute to the residual amount available for appeals.

An influential factor in determining the 2008 recommended allocations was the pre-arranged scheduled visits in 2007 to observe the programs that have been receiving funding. The site visits identified notable, outstanding and coordinated programs to fair, mediocre, and wishy-washy programs. Increasing participation in recreation is a priority for the City of Toronto. Therefore, ensuring quality and coordinated programs and services that are funded through the recreation grants, are central to the division's development and implementation of a Recreation Service Plan over the next five years. This will address the changing demographics, gaps in services, and continuous improvement in recreation service delivery. Community organizations are a critical partner for the division to fulfil its service plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

### **The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:**

1. The Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee approve the allocations for the Recreation Partnership and Investment Program and the Minor Recreation Investment Program totalling \$1,377,370 per Attachment 1 and Attachment 2;
2. \$16,700 be set aside for the grants appeals process for Minors
3. this report be forwarded to the meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee, and;
4. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

This report recommended that the 2008 approved Operating Budget of \$1,007,495 for the Majors and \$369,875 for the Minors (with \$16,700 reserved for appeals) within CPIP be allocated as per Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Our Common Grounds, the strategic plan of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, focuses on three areas of service priorities: environmental stewardship, child and youth development, and lifelong active living. These service priorities aid the City of Toronto to achieve its vision and values of "Prosperity, Opportunity, and Liveability," as stated in the 2006 Mayor's Platform.

However, it is well documented that Toronto has become Canada's poverty capital. A groundbreaking 2007 report, *Losing Ground: The Persistent Growth of Family Poverty*

*in Canada's Largest City*, by the United Way of Greater Toronto, documents that more Toronto families are slipping into poverty while other families in the rest of the GTA, the province and the country are experiencing economic stability and improvement. Thirty per cent of families raising children in Toronto are living in poverty compared to 16 % in 1990.

As a strategic tool, recreation grants support organizations that practise community development at the neighbourhood level. This approach to supporting neighbourhood services provides direct intervention to at-risk individuals and emerging communities, and complements the delivery of Parks, Forestry and Recreation programs and services to residents. In view of this, there is an increasing need for the City to support community groups that address poverty through recreation.

This is further substantiated by the disparity between the increase requests and the fact that the grant budget has remained the same over the past few years. In 2007, only 59% of the total requests were allocated; in 2008 only 54% were allocated (see Attachment 1 and Attachment 2). The inability of the City to meet the requests for additional funding has placed undue stress on community organizations to respond appropriately.

## **COMMENTS**

There has been an increase in new grant applications over last year's: 2 for Majors (8%) and 23 for Minors (22%). Of this increase, 14 came from priority neighbourhoods (60%), and 12 of these applications (86%) were recommended for allocations. Two of these new applications (14%) were not recommended for funding.

A total of 134 organizations applied for funding: 25 for Majors, of which 23 were recommended for allocations; the other 2 agencies, West Hill Community Services and Toronto Sports Council were recommended for allocations from the Minors and Festival and Special Events programs, respectively, due to insufficient funding in the Majors, and the division's reserved right to transfer grant requests that supports the division's objectives (see Attachment 1); 109 for Minors, of which 99 were recommended for allocations (See Attachment 2).

Of the 109 Minors, 10 agencies were allocated \$0 recommendation: 3 were late; 1 incomplete; 3 duplicating services; and 3 did not meet the recreation grants program criteria (see Attachment 5 and Attachment 6, for the respective program guidelines).

See Attachment 3 and Attachment 4, for the summary of all agencies reviewed.

### Location of Recommended Agencies under the Grants Programs

The recommended grants recipients of both the Majors and Minors are fairly distributed across the city. The agencies recommended for allocations under the Majors are in three priority neighbourhoods in the Scarborough District: Malvern, Kingston-Galloway, and

Scarborough Village. The other recommended agencies for allocations under the Majors are in South District. There is one priority neighbourhood, Crescent Town, in the South.

Some of the agencies recommended for funding under the Minors are located in priority neighbourhoods: East: Dorset Park, Eglinton East-Kennedy Park, Kingston-Galloway, Malvern, Scarborough Village, Steeles-L'Amoureux; West District: Jamestown, Weston-Mt. Dennis; North District: Flemington Park-Victoria Village, Jane-Finch, Lawrence Heights; South District: Crescent Town.

#### Grants Application Process

The deadline for application submission was 4:30 P.M., Thursday, January 24, 2008. Distribution of the application forms was done by request, picked-up at the Customer Service desk at three civic centres and City Hall, or down-loaded from the City's website. Applicants returned their completed applications by mail or hand-delivered them to the locations noted above. Applications were reviewed for completeness, and where necessary, organizations were contacted for further information. Late applications were not reviewed, as per grants program guideline.

#### **CONTACT**

Fay Grange  
Program Standards & Development Officer  
Community Engagement Unit  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division  
Phone: (416) 392-0436  
Fax: (416) 392-0845  
Email: [fgrange@toronto.ca](mailto:fgrange@toronto.ca)

Lucy Stern, Manager  
Community Engagement Unit  
Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division  
Phone: (416) 392-0460  
Fax: (416) 392-0845  
Email: [lstern2@toronto.ca](mailto:lstern2@toronto.ca)

Kathy Wiele, Director  
DCCE  
Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division  
Phone: (416) 392-8184  
Fax: (416) 392-5600  
Email: [kwiele@toronto.ca](mailto:kwiele@toronto.ca)

#### **SIGNATURE**

---

Brenda Librecz  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - Summary of Recommendations - Major Recreation Partnership Program

Attachment 2 - Summary of Recommendations - Minor Recreation Investment Program

Attachment 3 - Summary Sheets – Major Recreation Partnership Program

Attachment 4 - Summary Sheets – Minor Recreation Investment Program

Attachment 5 - 2008 Major Recreation Partnership Program Guidelines

Attachment 6 – 2008 Minor Recreation Investment Program Guidelines