



Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
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TO: Members of Council
FROM: Ms. K. Power, City Clerk
DATE: Thursday, September 5, 2019
SUBJECT: **New Business**
Committee of the Whole – September 9, 2019

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

New Business

1. Memorandum from Ms. K. Robertson, General Manager – Community Services, dated September 3, 2019 relative to initiatives underway in response to discontinuation of TBDSSAB Community Social Reinvestment Program, for information.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5K4
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2019
TO: Krista Power, City Clerk
CC: EMT, Leah Prentice, Acting Director of Recreation and Culture
FROM: Kelly Robertson,
General Manager, Community Services Department
SUBJECT: Initiatives underway in response to Discontinuation of TBDSSAB Community Social Reinvestment Program – Committee of the Whole – September 9, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this memo is to advise you of initiatives underway to assess the impacts of the discontinuation of TBDSSAB Community Social Reinvestment Program. The TBDSSAB recently announced that this fund, which provided \$562,000 to 35 organizations serving Thunder Bay District in 2019, will be discontinued in 2020.

Local media reports suggest that 67% of the funding went to groups dealing with food security issues and TBDSSAB CAO William Bradica has advised that these organizations will be able to apply for funding through TBDSSAB's Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative. Representatives of the TBDSSAB explained that historically the Community Social Reinvestment Program received financial support from the Province. However, in recent years, the continuation of this non-mandated program relied on financial support from local municipalities. In 2019, the program was supported through TBDSSAB's Levy Stabilization Reserve Fund. Lucy Kloosterhuis, Chair, rationalized TBDSSAB's decision to discontinue with the program on the need to be proactive due to anticipated provincial funding reductions to TBDSSAB and feedback from municipalities regarding their financial pressures.

Administration has received notification from some non-profit organizations who benefit from the City's Community, Youth and Cultural Funding Program (operating and sustaining funding) that will be impacted by these cuts. Administration has reached out to funded organizations and invited them to resubmit revised 2020 funding applications in light of this new information. Information received will be considered by the Grant Review Teams in making their 2020 funding recommendations and brought forward to the Funding Program's Appeal Committee for information and further recommendations where necessary. An annual report to City Council with recommendations related to the 2020 Community, Youth and Cultural Funding Program will be presented to inform the 2020 budget process. Under the Council-approved procedural by-law and Funding Model, eligible applicants to this program are not permitted to

make a deputation to City Council or any committee of Council other than the Funding Program's Appeal Committee, in respect of their funding.

In addition, a number of organizations including the City (Recreation and Culture and Crime Prevention), School Boards, TBDSSAB, Lakehead University, United Way, and non-profit organizations, some affected by these cuts, have been collaborating under the leadership of Thunder Bay District Health Unit since January 2019 on a "Keeping Kids Healthy through Collective Impact" initiative. The focus on this initiative is to improve the health outcomes for children aged 0 – 12 years in priority neighbourhoods through a coordinated service delivery approach. The partners have agreed to submit funding applications to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Public Health Agency of Canada – Multi-sectoral Partnerships to address program/service gaps and these applications are due between October 1 – November 2019.

Notwithstanding the above, the City continues to support and work with a number of non-profit organizations within existing capacity to support community needs. For example, the Youth Inclusion Program calls for establishing a third program site in the Ogden/Simpson neighbourhood by April 2020 and the project team will be working in partnership with Evergreen United and other service providers to confirm details in the coming months.

Administration will continue to update City Council on how these funding gaps are affecting community programming and make recommendations where appropriate.

Yours truly,

Kelly Robertson,
General Manager, Community Services Department