

DATE OF MEETING March 11, 2019

AUTHORED BY LAURA MERCER, ACTING DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT **GRANTS AND EXEMPTIONS**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with an understanding of the various grants and exemptions provided to organizations by the City of Nanaimo.

Recommendation

That the Grants and Exemptions report dated 2019-MAR-11 be received for information.

DISCUSSION

There are a number of organizations that receive either a cash payment or a reduction or exemption from a City fee or charge. These will normally take one of the following forms:

- Cash payment
- Exemption from property taxes (all or partial)
- Exemption or reduction of a City fee (e.g., facility rental)
- Nominal lease of City property

The category with the largest financial impact is cash grants. These can be further broken down into several sub-categories:

1. **Operating grants** – appear as annual line items in the Financial Plan. Generally provide a service to the community and many occupy City owned buildings, e.g., Port Theatre, Nanaimo Museum.
2. **Social grants** – mostly application based grants administered by Social Planning. Some are “flow through” where funding is provided by a senior government and directed through the City, e.g., grant to John Howard Society “Restorative Practice in Schools” (2017).
3. **Culture & Heritage grants** – mostly application based grants administered by Culture & Heritage. Includes downtown events and funding for organizations like the Vancouver Island Symphony.
4. **Recreation & Sports** – a small amount of funding for sports tourism administered by the Nanaimo Hospitality Association, plus grants for the Volunteers in Parks program.
5. **Other grants** – there is a small budget for grants that don’t fit anywhere else, including security check grants.

The City of Nanaimo gives Permissive Tax Exemptions (PTE), which grant non-profit organizations exemption from property taxes; and Revitalization Tax Exemptions (RTE), which can be used to provide property tax incentives for specified types of construction or locations.

Nanaimo's RTE bylaws target hotels and, more recently, downtown commercial and multi-family residential construction.

A presentation for information will follow the introduction of the report. Staff are not seeking direction at this time.

SUMMARY POINTS

- There are a number of organizations that receive either a cash payment or a reduction or exemption from a City fee or charge.
- Cash grants have the largest financial impact to the City.
- The City of Nanaimo gives Permissive Tax Exemptions which grant non-profit organizations exemption from property taxes.
- Revitalization Tax Exemptions (RTE), are given and can be used to provide property tax incentives for specified types of construction or locations.
- The City of Nanaimo's Revitalization Tax Exemption bylaws target hotels and downtown commercial and multi-family residential construction.

ATTACHMENTS

Grants and Exemptions PowerPoint Presentation

Submitted by:

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