

DATE OF MEETING | MARCH 20, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | DAMON JOHNSTON, ARENA MANAGER
PARKS AND RECREATION |

SUBJECT | **BID TO HOST THE 2021 ROYAL BANK CUP, NATIONAL JUNIOR A HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain support to host the 2021 Royal Bank Cup National Junior A Hockey Championship at the Frank Crane Arena.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

- (a) support the Nanaimo Clippers Junior A Hockey Club bid to host the Royal Bank Cup National Junior A Hockey Championship in 2021; and,
- (b) If the bid is successful, commit up to \$30,000 in the 2021 budget for the event.

BACKGROUND

The Nanaimo Clippers Junior A Hockey Club (Clippers) is requesting Council's support with their bid to host the Royal Bank Cup (RBC Cup) National Junior A Hockey Championship at the Frank Crane Arena in 2021.

The RBC Cup is an eight-day hockey tournament hosting five teams, including the top four teams from the Eastern, Central, Western and Pacific divisions. The fifth team is from the host community. The RBC Cup started in 1996 and Nanaimo hosted in 1998. The tournament in 2021 would take place from 15-May to 23-May. As a component of the bid submission to Hockey Canada, the Clippers are requesting financial support from the City of Nanaimo in the amount of \$30,000, as well as exclusive use of the Frank Crane Arena. If approved, funding would be added to the 2021 operating budget process and would come from taxation.

The tournament will draw approximately 150 players, coaches, support staff, officials and scouts as well as many fans from across the country. Sport Tourism events like the RBC Cup will generate significant tourism income for Nanaimo through tourism spending on hotels, travel, food and beverage and entertainment. The 2018 RBC Cup that was hosted in Chilliwack, BC, reported a local economic impact of over \$2.5 million.

The Clippers are a Junior A hockey franchise in Nanaimo since 1976. The Clippers have experience in hosting national and international hockey events such as the Western Canada Cup in 2013 and the World Junior Hockey exhibition game between Slovakia and the Czech Republic in 2018.

Hosting the tournament in May 2021 will affect the ice out schedule, which will have impact on programming of Frank Crane Arena. The delay in ice-out will affect the start of the lacrosse season and will impact the game schedule for the Nanaimo Lacrosse Association. Typically, lacrosse has access to Frank Crane Arena starting in April. Alternatively, lacrosse games could be hosted at the Nanaimo Ice Centre through April and May. |

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:
 - (a) support the Nanaimo Clippers Junior A Hockey Club bid to host the Royal Bank Cup National Junior A Hockey Championship in 2021; and,
 - (b) if the bid is successful, commit up to \$30,000 in the 2021 budget for the event.
 - **Budget Implication:** If the bid is successful, year 3 (2021) of the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan would be amended to add a budget of \$30,000 for the event with funding from general taxation.
 - **Engagement Implication:** Hosting the tournament will impact the dry floor season at Frank Crane Arena which will have impact on the lacrosse season but also provide high-level hockey games to local spectators.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Hosting the RBC Cup will create economic spin off for Nanaimo, as well as promoting excellence in sport.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council deny providing support to the bid to host the 2021 Royal Bank Cup National Junior A Hockey Championship. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Nanaimo Clippers are requesting support for the bid to host the Royal Bank Cup National Junior A Hockey Championships in 2021.
- The event would be hosted at the Frank Crane Arena in May 2021.
- The event will have impact on the lacrosse season by delaying the ice out schedule. |

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Letter of Request from the Nanaimo Clippers Junior A Hockey Club |

Submitted by:

Damon Johnston
Arena Manager, Parks and Recreation |

Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
Director, Parks and Recreation |