

DATE OF MEETING October 21, 2019

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SUBJECT NANAIMO REGION FOUNDRY BC CENTRE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with background information regarding the Foundry BC youth wellness centre program and to obtain Council support for the Nanaimo Region Foundry BC Steering Committee's (NFSC) application to Foundry BC to fund a Foundry centre in Nanaimo with City of Nanaimo participation on the steering committee. |

Recommendation

That Council authorize the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the Nanaimo Region Foundry BC Steering Committee regarding their application to create a Foundry BC site in Nanaimo and direct a representative from City Staff to participate as a non-voting member on the committee.

BACKGROUND

Foundry BC (the "Foundry") is a Provincial program that involves over 100 partnerships coming together to provide early intervention services to support the wellness of young people ages 12 to 24. Foundry centres provide an integrated comprehensive care services, including primary health care, mental health and substance use services, social services (such as vocational, educational, and financial services), and youth and family peer services. Centres may also include additional services based on local needs, such as food security and childminding. Funding for Foundry centres is provided by grants from Foundry BC.

Foundry centres support the co-location of critical mental and physical health services for youth. By having all youth services operating at one location, youth can get the supports they need in one youth-friendly location. Youth will know where to go to get help without needing to navigate an array of services and re-tell their story to a number of different service providers. Nearly 75% of mental health challenges begin prior to the age of 24. Focusing on youth between ages 12 and 24 allows for early intervention before an issue becomes a crisis, and provides services for youth aging out of supports established for younger children.

There are currently eight Foundry centres in the province, including two on Vancouver Island in Campbell River and Victoria. Each Foundry centre is managed by a "lead agency" responsible for the overall operation of the local centre. The Canadian Mental Health Association - Mid Island (CMHA - MI) has committed to serving as the lead agency for the Nanaimo Centre. |

DISCUSSION

In anticipation that Foundry BC will seek applications for funding to support a new Foundry centre, Nanaimo regional service partners and stakeholders have established the Nanaimo Region Foundry BC Steering Committee's (NFSC). NFSC includes an advisory committee and

stakeholder committee with representatives from key service programs within the Nanaimo region including:

- Island Health
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Snaw-Naw-As First Nation
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
- Public Health
- School District 68
- The Nanaimo Division of Family Practice
- The First Nations Health Authority
- The Children's Health Foundation
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Mid-Island Branch

The primary purpose of the NFSC is to submit a successful application to Foundry BC that represents the needs of youth in the community and the collaborative vision of those tasked with providing services to those youth. A number of youth in Nanaimo display significant risk factors associated with poverty, drugs, alcohol, impacts of trauma, and other mental wellness issues. The Nanaimo census area has a child poverty rate of 22.9%, with two tracts with 40% or more living in poverty (2018 BC Child Poverty Report Card). Nanaimo's 2018 point-in-time homeless count identified 30 individuals under age 24 who were experiencing homelessness, including 11 dependant children. A Foundry centre will provide a much-needed holistic service to increase the resiliency and healthy outcomes for youth at risk.

Communities across the province will be called to submit applications, and selections will be made by criteria established by Foundry BC. To supplement their application, the NFSC is seeking a letter of support from the Mayor on behalf of Mayor and Council. A draft unsigned letter is included for Council's information as Attachment A. At this time, no additional supports are requested from the City.

OPTIONS

1. That Council authorize the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the Nanaimo Region Foundry BC Steering Committee regarding their application to create a Foundry BC site in Nanaimo and direct a representative from City Staff to participate as a non-voting member on the committee.
 - Advantages: A Nanaimo region Foundry site will provide a valuable social service centre within a single location to support the needs of Nanaimo's youth. The Foundry centre will help reach and support young people at a time when they are most vulnerable to developing mental health challenges. Providing mental and physical health supports for local youth will allow for early intervention and will support youth in transitioning into becoming healthy, resilient, and productive residents. Supporting the NFSC Foundry BC application is included within the Livability theme of Council's 2019 Strategic Plan, which encourages Nanaimo to "*be a City in which all people live, work, play, create and learn in a safe and connected community*".
 - Disadvantages: Staff do not anticipate any disadvantages with providing a letter to support NFSC's application for a Foundry BC site.

- Financial Implications: The NFSC is not requesting financial support at this time. If the NFSC is successful in receiving their grant funding, some additional supports may be requested from the City at a future date.
2. That Council deny the request for a letter of support to the NFSC regarding their application to create a Foundry BC site in Nanaimo.
- Advantages: Staff do not anticipate any advantages with denying the request for a letter to support NFSC's application for a Foundry BC site.
 - Disadvantages: If Council chooses to deny the requested letter of support to NFSC, it may significantly impact NFSC's chances of submitting a successful application. Not providing a letter may also negatively impact the City's relationship with youth health service providers.
 - Financial Implications: If the NFSC are not successful in receiving Foundry BC funding, it is very unlikely a Foundry centre will be established in Nanaimo. Other service agencies, including the City of Nanaimo, may be tasked with addressing the impacts of not having better coordinated youth-focused services in the city. This will be a lost opportunity for implementing a more effective, integrated service delivery model to better meet the needs of youth at risk. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- Foundry BC is a Provincial program which supports the co-location of mental and physical health and social support services for youth aged 12 to 24.
- Nanaimo regional service partners and stakeholders have established the Nanaimo Region Foundry BC Steering Committee in order to submit a funding application to Foundry BC to establish a Foundry centre in Nanaimo.
- NFSC are seeking a letter of support from the Mayor on behalf of the Nanaimo Mayor and Council to support their application.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Draft Letter of Support

ATTACHMENT B: Project Backgrounder - Nanaimo Region Foundry BC Centre

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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