

DATE OF MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2024

AUTHORED BY ANA FRANCISCO, ASSISTANT MANAGER, REVENUE SERVICES

SUBJECT Security Check Grant Request from Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present the ‘Security Check Grant’ application received from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society for consideration at the Finance and Audit Committee.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council award a ‘Security Check Grant’ for \$50 to the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society to cover the cost of the security checks for new hires.

BACKGROUND

Each year the City of Nanaimo sets aside funding to help cover the cost of security check fees for eligible community organizations. Funding is available to organizations that must have security checks carried out by the RCMP on employees and volunteers that are working for that organization.

Eligibility requirements include:

- The organization must provide non-profit services that provide a benefit to the residents of the City of Nanaimo
- The applicant organization must be a registered non-profit society or a registered charity
- The organization must have other sources of financial support and be able to demonstrate financial need
- The organization must have a large volunteer base and a broad base of support

A copy of the Security Checks and Other Grants Policy is attached as Attachment A.

DISCUSSION

The Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society aims to inspire children to become interested in science and sustainability through community outreach and conducting educational programs. A key element to achieving this goal is their ‘Science in the Park’ program.

The Society was incorporated in 2010 and has since launched a summer program at Vancouver Island University, Wild Wings for Kids, a mobile science van, and summer outreach programs, among other activities.

The organization meets all the grant awarding criteria and there is sufficient budget available. As the organization has not spent funds to cover the cost of the security checks, if the grant is awarded, staff would ensure that receipts are provided as proof of the use of the funds awarded.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:
 - Award a 'Security Check Grant' for \$50 to the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society to cover the cost of the security checks for new hires.

Advantages:

- This grant will assist in covering the costs of RCMP security checks that are required to be completed by employees working for Nanaimo Science and Sustainability.

Disadvantages:

- There are no disadvantages to note.

Financial Implication

- There is \$2,000 in the budget for Security Check grants. Awarding a \$50 grant to the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society would leave \$1,950 in the budget remaining for 2024.

2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

- Deny a 'Security Check Grant for \$50 to the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society.

Advantages:

- There are no advantages noted as none of the budget has been expended.

Disadvantages:

- No financial assistance would be provided to the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society.

Financial Implication

- There is \$2,000 in the budget for Security Check grants. If no grant is awarded, the entire budget would remain unexpended.

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- A Security Check Grant application was received for \$50 from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society
- This grant program is designed to help cover the cost of RCMP security check fees for eligible community organizations.
- The organization meets the grant award criteria for a Security Check Grant, and there are funds available.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Security Checks and Other Grants Policy

ATTACHMENT B: Security Check Application – Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society |

Submitted by:

Ana Francisco
Assistant Manager, Revenue Services

Concurrence by:

Wendy Fulla
Director, Finance

Laura Mercer
General Manager, Corporate Services