

OR: COUNCIL MEETING
MEETING DATE: February 2, 2026
DEPARTMENT: PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT - NANAIMO WEDO TIBETAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval for a Community Program Development Grant (CPDG).

Recommendation

That Council approve funding for the Nanaimo Wedo Tibetan Buddhist Society for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$1,470 to assist in funding the Mindfulness in Motion: A Community Wellness Program.

BACKGROUND

The intent of the CPDG is to assist community groups in developing new or expanded programs that provide increased opportunities for residents to participate and connect with community, and to enhance residents' exposure to a variety of experiences.

The CPDG is intended as seed funding to help get new programs and events off the ground, or to expand existing programs with the hope that the programs become self-sustaining. It is not intended to be long-term operational funding or funding for capital expenditures. A total budget of \$15,000 is available annually through this fund with applications accepted by deadlines of November 1 for spring/summer programs, and May 1 for fall/winter programs, or as funds remain available.

DISCUSSION

A total of four CPDG applications were received by 2025-NOV-01 for the intake of spring/summer 2026 programs. Staff reviewed the applications and based on program eligibility and assessment criteria it was determined that the application from the Nanaimo Wedo Tibetan Buddhist Society for the Mindfulness in Motion: A Community Wellness Program (Attachment A) is the only one that successfully meets all evaluation criteria for the funding (Attachment B). Staff recommend aligning the amount awarded with criteria established in the Downtown Event Revitalisation Grant which is 35% of overall budget. This provides consistent and equitable funding distribution for programs / events of this type.

The Mindfulness in Motion program is a family-friendly and accessible community wellness and recreation program that will be open to all residents of all ages. It combines guided mindfulness practice and meditation, with an outdoor activity in the City of Nanaimo's parks and community

spaces. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious background or prior experience.

This application was the only grant received in 2025 that qualified for the 2026 spring/summer intake. Because of this, none of the \$15,000 in CPDG Funds from 2025 was used. For this application, the approved funds from 2025 will be moved to 2026 through the carry forward process. Approval of this application for \$1,470 will have no financial impact on the budget for 2026 and the full amount of \$15,000 will remain available for the upcoming intake of applications in May and September 2026. |

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

[This initiative does not require a statutory notification or include community engagement activities. However due to a recent decline in eligible grant applications, staff will be working on an awareness campaign as well as recommendations to better align criteria with other grants which will be coming to a future meeting for Council's consideration.]

ALIGNMENT WITH CITY PLAN

The report is aligned with the following City goal:

- A Healthy Nanaimo: Community Wellbeing and Livability
 - C3.6 Recreation, Culture & Wellness |

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The report is aligned with the following Council Strategic Framework priorities (tick all applicable goals, consult [Council's Strategic Framework](#) for more details):

- Implementing City Plan Action Plans and Key City Management Plans
- Governance and Corporate Excellence |

OPTIONS

1. That Council approve funding for the Nanaimo Wedo Tibetan Buddhist Society for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$1,470 to assist in funding the Mindfulness in Motion: A Community Wellness Program.
 - The advantages of this option: Meets the goal of helping community groups introduce new programs to increase opportunities for residents to participate and connect in the community. Aligns with City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined C3.6 Recreation, Culture & Wellness.
 - The disadvantages of this option: none identified.
 - Financial Implications: The amount of \$1,470 would be funded through the 2025 carry forward process. For 2026, the full amount of \$15,000 will still remain available.
2. That Council deny the Community Program Development Grant application from the Nanaimo Wedo Tibetan Buddhist Society.
 - The advantages of this option: none identified.

- The disadvantages of this option: An application from a community group that fulfills all grant criteria would not be approved and the Mindfulness in Motion program may not be able to proceed as planned.
 - Financial Implications: The recommended grant funds of \$1,470 would not be used.
3. That Council provide alternate direction.

KEY MESSAGES

- Funding of \$15,000 is allocated annually for Community Program Development Grants.
- The application from the Nanaimo Wedo Tibetan Buddhist Society to assist with funding the Mindfulness in Motion: A Community Wellness Program successfully meets all of the grant criteria.
- Funding from 2025 will be carried forward to cover the approved amount and a balance of \$15,000 would remain in the 2026 CPDG fund if the application is approved.
- Recommendations for changes to the CPDG program as well as an awareness campaign will be presented at a future Finance & Audit Committee meeting for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

- ATTACHMENT A: Nanaimo Wedo Tibetan Buddhist Society Grant Application**
ATTACHMENT B: Nanaimo Wedo Tibetan Buddhist Society Grant Evaluation Checklist

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