
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 25, 2003
FILE: 1855-20

TO: City Manager

FROM: Community Planning Manager

RE: Emergency Grant Applications

REPORT PREPARED BY: Theresa Eichler

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council accept the recommendations of the Social Planning & Housing Committee to authorize the following emergency grants, in accordance with Council Policy 312:

\$2,000 to the Kelowna Family Centre Society
\$5,000 to the Kelowna Drop-In Centre.

PURPOSE:

To forward the recommendations of the Social Planning & Housing Committee with respect to two applications for emergency grants received by the City.

BACKGROUND:

In July of 2003, Council approved the recommendations of staff and the Social Planning and Housing Committee to create a new process to enable agencies to apply from emergency grants in cases where financial hardship threatens a service provided by the non-profit sector. Council Policy 312 was approved to guide this process. Grants would be for a maximum of \$5,000 and are to be funded from the Social Development Grants Reserve (R117).

REPORT

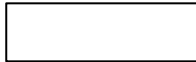
Two applications for emergency grants have been received by the City and were reviewed by the Social Planning and Housing Committee on September 16, 2003. Applicants were interviewed and recommendations to Council were made. One application was from the Kelowna Family Centre Society and the other was from the Kelowna Drop-In Centre. The Kelowna Family Centre has been in the process of accreditation for their services. This is now a requirement for many non-profit societies in order to maintain provincial funding. The cost of this process put the Society in a deficit position for 2003, which is the reason the application was made. The Kelowna Family Centre Society offers a range of counselling services to low income families in Kelowna. The Committee recommended that Council authorize a \$2,000 grant to the Society.

The Kelowna Drop-In Centre provides a variety of services to the homeless and low-income population in Kelowna. They also coordinate with other agencies serving this clientele. Services include meals, laundry & shower facilities, assistance with job searching and referring clients to other services in the community. Demands for their services have increased sharply in 2003,

largely due to greater hardship being experienced by the low-income population. Meals served over the last few months have doubled over the same period as last year, for example. The executive director of the Centre explained that this is due more to local families coming in for meals when they never needed to before, than it is to migration into the community. Donations to the Centre, however, have decreased. The focus on the Okanagan Park Fire has contributed to shifting the focus of the community away from the low-income sector. The Drop-In Centre is in financial hardship as a result of these factors. The Social Planning and Housing Committee recommended that Council authorize a \$5,000 emergency grant to the Centre.

Theresa Eichler, MCIP
Community Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion



David Shipclark
Manager, Community Development and Real Estate

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