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## CITY OF KELOWNA

# MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** August 15, 2006  
**File No.:** 8100-20  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Sport & Recreation Manager  
**Subject:** 2006 Canadian Arm Wrestling Championships

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT City Council approve \$4,000.00 from the Sports Event Development Grant as support towards the 2006 Canadian Arm Wrestling Championships to be held in Kelowna from September 1-4, 2006.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Sport Event Development Grant was established as an incentive and financial support avenue for local sport organization in hosting new and/or expanding existing sport events. \$35,000 is budgeted annually with unspent funds from one year carried over and added to the next year's available allotment. A funding formula exists that is based on a per head registration from out of town participants with a ceiling amount based on the level of event. The event categories consist of Invitational, Regional, Provincial, Western Canadian, National and International/World.

The approval process for SED Grants allow staff to approve requests up to \$3,000 (Western Canadian Championships) with higher funding requests requiring City Council approval.

To date 14 events have been funded from the Sports Event Development Grant for a total of \$18,298.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Arm Wrestling B.C. (head office in Kelowna) was successful with its bid to host the 2006 Canadian Arm Wrestling Championships that will attract participants from all over Canada.

- Overall expenses for the Canadian Championships are estimated at \$17,000 with a limited revenue stream outside of athlete registration fees.
- The grant is intended to support general operating expenses for the competition and the Canadian Arm Wrestling Association's Annual General Meeting, which is hosted over the competition weekend.
- Expected out of town participants (coaches, athletes and officials) is 400 with a 4 night stay. The competitors for the Canadian Championships must have competed in their Provincial Championships.

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- There are a variety of categories that fall within the following Divisions; Children's (6-17 years of age), Adult (18-39 years of age), Masters (40-49); Grand Master (over 50) and Individuals with a Disability. The categories within the Divisions are created based on weight other than the Children which is based on age and weight.
  - Event is run entirely by volunteers with support from the BC Arm Wrestling Association and Canadian Arm Wrestling Association.
  - Economic impact estimated at \$457,143.
  - Any surplus from this event will be put towards ongoing local school tournaments for the youth. The younger they start the better!

The top 2 competitors from each category earn a birth in the World Championships being held in London, England in October. Team Canada could consist of approximately 60-70 competitors but more likely will be 40-50 depending on fundraising and sponsorship.

Hosting the Canadian Championships is part of the group's local training ground in preparation for the 2008 World Championships that will be held in Kelowna in 2008. The Association is also hosted the Provincial Championships in Kelowna August 5 & 6, 2006.

The recommendation follows the City Council approved funding guidelines for the Sport Event Development Grant Program and is brought forward on behalf of the SEDG Review Team.

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Jim Gabriel, Sport & Recreation Manager

Cc: Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services