
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 11, 2006
FILE: 0230-20

TO: City Manager

FROM: Director of Financial Services

RE: Sponsorship of Government Finance Officers Association Dinner

Recommendation

THAT Council approve sponsorship of up to \$2,500 to host a dinner for the Committee on Canadian Issues on January 26, 2007 with funding from Council contingency.

Background & Comments

The Committee on Canadian Issues (CCI) has been a standing committee of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada since 1998. The Committee's purpose is to meet the unique needs of GFOA's Canadian members through advocacy and communications, professional development and standards development, including the establishment of Canadian best financial related practices for local governments. The Committee has 20 finance professional members drawn from 9 of Canada's 10 provinces, as well as from the Yukon and is supported by 2 staff members from the GFOA Chicago office. The committee is co-chaired by Len Brittain, City of Toronto and Paul Macklem, City of Kelowna, both of whom are on the GFOA Executive Board.

The CCI meets twice annually with the winter meeting held in a Canadian City towards the end of January and is being hosted in Kelowna for the first time on Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27, 2007. In 2005, the Mayor of St. John's, as host city, presided over a dinner sponsored by the Mayor and Council for the committee and GFOA support staff. While there is a cost involved for the city, it is partially offset by there being no travel costs for the host city committee member. This is respectfully requested under Council Policy 58.

The agenda for one of the two meeting days provides an opportunity for the host city to make presentations on areas that are locally relevant and of general interest to the committee members. For this meeting, the City of Kelowna will be making presentations regarding emergency preparedness, including events surrounding the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park fire and how that event has impacted our emergency planning function. We are confident that other communities can benefit from Kelowna's experience, in this case with a particular focus on risk management, procurement, recording of personnel and equipment time and reporting to agencies for recovery of expenditures.

The GFOA is the professional association of state/provincial and local government finance officers in the United States and Canada, and has served the public finance profession since 1906. More than 16,500 GFOA members are dedicated to the sound management of government financial resources.

Paul Macklem