

REPORT TO COUNCIL



Date: November 8, 2011

File: 0710-40

To: Mayor and Council

From: City Manager

Subject: November 14, 2011, Public in Attendance - Central Okanagan Foundation - City of Kelowna Emergency Grant

Attached is a copy of correspondence to Council dated November 4, 2011 from the Central Okanagan Foundation regarding its recommendation for a City of Kelowna Emergency Grant.

It is staff's recommendation that the following resolution be adopted by Council:

THAT Council approves the emergency grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Seniors' Outreach Services Society, as recommended by the Central Okanagan Foundation.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. L. Mattiussi", written over a horizontal line.

R.L. (Ron) Mattiussi, MCIP
City Manager

TE
Attachment



empowering generations to give.

November 2, 2011

Mayor Shepherd & Council
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 1J4

Dear Mayor Shepherd & Council:

A request for a City of Kelowna Emergency grant was received by the Central Okanagan Foundation on October 27, 2011 from Seniors Outreach Services Society. They are seeking \$5,000 to avoid a reduction in staff hours and hours of operation. The Grants Advisory committee is putting forward a recommendation to City Council to approve the emergency grant.

Seniors Outreach Services Society was created to enhance the quality of life for seniors in our community. Their services enrich lives, give purpose and value, link individuals to needed services, help maintain independence with dignity and help keep older adults safe. They do this by providing an outreach program to assist older adults attain and maintain housing and supportive services. As well as through volunteer services including: volunteer visitors, handyman, computer mentors, tax preparation, peer helpers, information and referral to available services, Elderguide resource directory, Seniors Regional Housing Directory, Housing Information Sessions, crisis counseling and support, annual SafetyNet Safety Fair (promotes prevention of abuse, and victimization), Coffee Breaks, a social support group, and the Be a Santa to a Senior program. They also offer Eldernet, a program that provides volunteer mentors to seniors who are unable to attend computer classes in the community.

Seniors Outreach Services Society is seeking funds to avoid reducing staff hours consequently reducing hours of operation for the duration of 2011 until 2012 funding comes through. Currently, they respond on a daily basis to approximately 50 telephone calls, from elders experiencing depression, requiring assistance to help find needed services or understand a letter about a government benefit. As the 'oldest' census metropolitan area in the country, it is important that levels of operation remain constant and available to our community. Seniors Outreach connects people to required services, information, benefits and other resources that community elders need to maintain wellness, safety, and independence to reduce the detrimental effects of isolation.

This proposal does fit within the social policy framework in the Official Community Plan and meets the requirements as stated in the Terms of Reference for an emergency grant.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Miller
Grants Manager, Central Okanagan Foundation