

CITY OF VANCOUVER



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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: February 27, 2008
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VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10
Meeting Date: March 11, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of the Housing Centre

SUBJECT: Grant Request: 2008 National Conference of the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a grant of \$15,000, with funding to be provided from the Affordable Housing Fund, for the 2008 National Conference of the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association (CHRA) that is being held in Vancouver from April 2 - 5, 2008.

This recommendation provides for a grant and requires eight affirmative votes of Council.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY Council policy is to provide grants to conferences where senior staff are involved in presenting or organizing the conference and the conference is relevant to City business.

In 1994, Council set a limit of \$5,000 for grants to conferences where funding for the conference is being provided from Contingency Reserve.

Grants require eight affirmative votes of Council.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval of a \$15,000 grant for the 2008 national conference for the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association which will be held in Vancouver April 2 - 5, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Established in 1968, the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association is the national non-profit organization that promotes access to adequate, affordable housing for low-and-modest income households, and seeks to promote awareness of affordable housing issues through research, advocacy, networking and communication. CHRA members include non-profit societies that provide affordable housing, municipalities, provincial housing agencies, developers and advocacy organizations. City of Vancouver has been a member since the organization's inception.

2008 National Conference

CHRA's 2008 national conference will be held in Vancouver from April 2 to 5, 2008. The theme of this year's conference is "Breaking New Ground". The conference will bring together 500 delegates from all regions of Canada to discuss the challenges of traditional approaches and explore new perspectives, by Breaking New Ground, in developing social housing.

The 4-day program includes keynote speakers, interactive workshops, walking tours and networking opportunities. The Director of Housing Centre and the Chief Executive Officer of BC Housing are co-chairing the Steering Committee. City staff in the Housing Centre sit on two organizing committees and will act as tour leaders and presenters at various events.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended that the City provide a grant of \$15,000 for CHRA's 2008 national conference with the Affordable Housing Fund as the source of funding. This will match the provincial contribution by BC Housing. As a sponsor at this level, the City will receive extensive recognition before, during and after the annual conference. Moreover, benefits including complimentary tickets to the conference and exhibit space. The conference will provide an excellent forum for the discussion of national, regional and local housing policies and it is important that the City of Vancouver to be in a leadership position for this event in our city.

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