



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 21, 2015  
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Meeting Date: January 19, 2016

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services  
SUBJECT: 2016 Street Cleaning Grants

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approve the 2016 Street Cleaning Grants totalling \$460,000 for supplementary cleaning of sidewalks, lanes and public spaces in Vancouver, with funding from the 2016 Street Cleaning Operating Budget, as follows:

- a. \$320,000 to Save Our Living Environment - United We Can,
- b. \$80,000 to Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program,
- c. \$35,000 to Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action, and
- d. \$25,000 to The Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report recommends grants to four non-profit organizations totalling \$460,000 for supplementary street cleaning services in 2016. The provision of these services results in job support and life skills training opportunities for youth and adults with employment barriers, assists the recipients with leveraging additional funding, and results in cleaner streets and lanes for communities where there is the greatest need.

Council approved an increase to the 2016 Street Cleaning Operating Budget to address public realm cleanliness and a portion of that funding will be allocated to an expanded grant program. Engineering staff, in collaboration with Community Services, are currently working on the development of an expanded program and that expansion will be reported separately in the coming months. The recommendations in this report will allow for a continuation of the existing micro-cleaning program and support to the community organizations in advance of an expanded grant program.

### ***COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS***

On April 23, 2002 Council adopted a definition of Sustainability as a basis for City actions and operations. Among other things, that definition describes sustainability as being achieved through community participation. Further, on May 24, 2005 Council adopted a definition of Social Sustainability that describes human capacity as the attributes and resources individuals can contribute to their own well-being and to the well-being of the community as a whole.

On November 3, 2015 Council adopted the Greenest City Action Plan 2015-2020 Strategy as the second phase of the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, including actions to reduce street litter and abandoned garbage in public spaces.

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes.

### ***CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommends approval of street cleaning grants for 2016. This is a long-standing program with significant social and environmental benefits. The award of these grants for 2016 will provide continuity of existing micro-cleaning services in areas of the City with the highest level of street cleaning demand.

### ***REPORT***

#### ***Background/Context***

To supplement the City's street cleaning services, for the past 17 years Council has approved annual grants to non-profit organizations that have the capacity to provide micro-cleaning services. Micro-cleaning involves daily collection of litter, on foot using brooms, shovels and wheeled garbage carts, and is work that is outside the scope of services provided by the City's forces. City micro-cleaning grants also complement other street cleaning services, such as programs coordinated by Business Improvement Associations (BIA's). Due to the variety of community based street cleaning initiatives, staff work with grant recipients throughout the year to ensure cleaning resources are allocated appropriately.

Grants for work performed in 2015 were awarded as follows:

Organization	Cleaning Area	Recipient Since	2015 Amount
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)	Downtown Eastside	1999	\$320,000
Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program (Coast)	Downtown Eastside	2008	\$80,000
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)	Downtown peninsula	2007	\$35,000
Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program (The Kettle)	Commercial Drive area	2009	\$25,000
<b>Grant Programs - Total</b>			<b>\$460,000</b>

2015 grant funding resulted in the following:

- Micro-cleaning of an area covering 335 City blocks;
- Collection of 11,500 bags of litter; and,
- Provision of 32,000 work hours to about 400 individuals with barriers to traditional employment.

In addition to achieving cleaner streets, these grants support employment and life skills training for local community residents.

The grant program provides linkages with the following Council priorities and corporate strategies:

- Low threshold employment supports an inclusive city and helps marginalized individuals to become more self-reliant, contributing to the goal of ending homelessness; and,
- Cleaner streets promote a safe and welcoming public realm, shows a commitment to protecting the environment and helps to convey “Greenest City”.

### ***Strategic Analysis***

For 2016 staff recommend continuing with the same grants provided in 2015:

Organization	Cleaning Area	Recommended 2016 Grant
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)	Downtown Eastside	\$320,000
Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program (Coast)	Downtown Eastside	\$80,000
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)	Downtown Peninsula	\$35,000
Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program (The Kettle)	Commercial Drive Area	\$25,000
<b>Grant Programs Total</b>		<b>\$460,000</b>

This will allow United We Can/SOLE and Coast to continue providing street cleaning services in the DTES, an area of the City where street cleaning demand is significant relative to other areas of the City. Both SOLE and Coast have consistently demonstrated they have the necessary resources and capabilities to provide a high standard of workmanship and good value to the City with respect to cleaning in DTES streets and lanes.

Grants recommended to SYJA and The Kettle are based on staff’s assessment of:

- specific areas outside the DTES where street cleaning demand is particularly high,
- the additional level of service those areas would benefit from, and
- the experience and capacity demonstrated previously by those organizations to provide the level of service required.

Consistent with past practice, quarterly summary reports by SOLE, Coast, SYJA and The Kettle will be submitted to and monitored by Engineering Services. Required documentation will include the number of hours worked, people employed, blocks cleaned and the amount of

litter collected. These reports assist City staff with measuring the success of the programs and determining priority areas for micro-cleaning services so that work can be adjusted as required. As in 2015, grant funding will be distributed quarterly, following the submission of summary reports.

In anticipation of Council approving additional funding for 2016 to address public realm cleanliness as part of the City's 2016 operating budget process, in November 2015 staff solicited proposals from local non-profits currently involved in micro-cleaning type programs to gauge the level of interest and capacity for these organizations to expand. Submissions have been reviewed and that information is assisting in the development of an expanded grant program for 2016 additional to what is recommended in this report. That expanded program is intended to focus on additional micro-cleaning, opportunities to target problem litter items (i.e. cigarette butts, gum and coffee cups), opportunities to increase the diversion of litter from disposal, and related initiatives in collaboration with Community Services. Council requested staff report back in 2016 with a plan to enhance public realm cleanliness and details on a recommended expanded grant program will be included in that report.

Appendix A provides background information on each of the four organizations recommended for grant funding for 2016.

### *Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)*

#### *Financial*

This report recommends a total street cleaning grant in 2016 of \$460,000 consisting of \$320,000 to SOLE, \$80,000 to Coast, \$35,000 to SYJA and \$25,000 to The Kettle. The source of funding is the 2016 Street Cleaning Operating Budget. Additional funding to improve public realm cleanliness was requested and approved as part of the 2016 budget process which resulted in an increase to the 2016 Street Cleaning Operating Budget. A portion of the new funding for 2016 will be allocated to an expanded grant program and those details will be reported to Council in a separate report.

#### *Human Resources/Labour Relations*

There are no personnel implications. The service provided under these grants (micro-cleaning) is outside the range of services provided by the City and CUPE 1004 has been supportive of this socially sustainable grant program since its inception in 1999.

### *CONCLUSION*

Street cleaning grants to Save Our Living Environment - United We Can, Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program, Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action and Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program for supplemental street cleaning services will continue to benefit marginalized residents by providing job and life skills training and benefit the City by improving the cleanliness of the public realm.

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## Background Information on Recommended Street Cleaning Grant Recipients:

### Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)

SOLE is a non-profit urban environmental group active in the DTES. The Society sponsors several projects, including the United We Can Bottle Depot. A primary objective of the Society is to create self-sustaining enterprises that focus on caring for the urban environment, while also creating income and job training for people of the inner city. The program employs residents from the local community with barriers to traditional employment, giving them valuable job-training, enhanced self-esteem and improved life skills.

SOLE has utilized City grant funding over the past 17 years to provide job training and employment to individuals by performing micro-cleaning of streets and lanes in the DTES. This funding has also allowed SOLE to leverage additional funding through Business Improvement Associations (BIA's) and through special events.

SOLE has approximately 55 stable employees with a range of assorted barriers that clean lanes and sidewalks. As a result of this opportunity, some of the SOLE staff no longer require income assistance. SOLE's total pool of active work participants is sustained at 150 people, many of whom participate in the lane cleaning program. The 2015 Street Cleaning Grant allowed SOLE's cleaning activities to collect 8,000 bags of litter from an area covering approximately 120 blocks and several parks in the DTES and surrounding areas.

### Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program (Coast)

Coast Mental Health is an accredited non-profit society that was created in 1972 in response to a growing need in the community for services to assist people recovering from a serious mental illness. Coast operates in the Lower Mainland and provides approximately 4000 people with supportive housing coupled with a drop in resource centre, a clubhouse, homeless outreach, clinical supports, leisure services, vocational skills training and employment programs.

Coast has operated employment services for people with a mental illness for 30 years with funding support from Government of B.C, Coastal Health and City of Vancouver. The employment program provides an opportunity for people with a mental illness, along a continuum of recovery, to build skills and self-esteem through pre-vocational skills training, transitional employment, basic education and placement in competitive employment. The hub of the low barrier employment services for Coast is located out of the Coast Clubhouse which has over 300 active members. The Clubhouse operates Coast's Breaking Barriers Clean Team, a low barrier street cleaning service. Coast's employment service has long standing partnerships and service contracts with 14 Business Improvement Associations and the City of Vancouver to deliver micro-cleaning in the business districts of Vancouver and in the DTES.

In 2015 the Street Cleaning Grant allowed Coast's micro-cleaning team to recover 2,500 bags of litter from an area covering approximately 50 blocks in the DTES. The clean team employs 38 clients with a mental illness. Workers on the street cleaning crew have gained valuable essential skills for the work place, increased self-esteem and some have successfully transitioned to competitive employment. All of the micro-cleaners are residents of the area and take great pride in work they do by contributing to the beautification of their

neighborhood. They are the eyes on the street for reporting refuse dumping in back alleys and vacant lots.

#### Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)

SYJA is a social enterprise committed to improving the lives of homeless or at risk youth, age 24 and under. They offer a range of services including prevention, counselling, pre-employment job training and employment opportunities. They take a unique approach with reaching out to youth, such as providing locker facilities and pet kennels in order to allow individuals to utilize their services.

Services provided by SYJA include temporary, casual or part-time employment to approximately 200 homeless or at risk youths per year on a work today, paid today basis. The program has proven to be successful in breaking down the barriers to employment and beginning the process of helping youth to acquire the confidence and skills they will need to become employable and bridge them back into the community. Long term success can be seen in staff members who were once themselves youths in the SYJA program and have now become SYJA peer counsellors.

SYJA has an established community enhancement program (micro-cleaning initiatives, needle sweeps, and graffiti removal) for its youth through partnerships with BIA's, Waste Management of Canada, and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA). With support from these organizations and businesses, they are able to receive matching funds which exceed the amount of funding provided by the City.

The 2015 grant allowed SYJA to provide approximately 2,100 hours of life skills and job training, and employment opportunities to about 30 youth per quarter through their street enhancement program. As a result, some of these youth have and will be able to find long term employment and housing. The program also resulted in approximately 550 bags of litter being cleaned up from an area covering approximately 150 blocks of streets and sidewalks in the downtown peninsula. The City's street cleaning grant allows SYJA to sustain their current program and extend it to more youth in need.

#### The Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program

The Kettle Friendship Society is a Vancouver based organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with mental illness. The Kettle achieves this in a number of ways including provision of crisis support, advocacy, supported housing, employment and support services, a health clinic, drop-in lunch program, and recreational activities.

The Kettle runs numerous programs one of which is the SEED Employment Program. SEED (Skills, Esteem & Employment Development) assists individuals with chronic mental health issues to build the vocational skills, confidence and stamina necessary to make the transition from unemployment to satisfying work opportunities. SEED presently provides 35 various work opportunities to their clients with multiple barriers which include; landscapers, store clerks, kitchen prep workers and street cleaners to name a few. The SEED Program is a major partner with Common Thread Co-operative, and is responsible for the sewing training so participants can earn a wage producing various types of bags made from upcycled street banners.

The SEED Program is also part of a creative partnership with the Commercial Drive BIA. The SEED Clean Team has worked closely with the Commercial Drive BIA to conduct street cleaning services five days a week and has employed 78 people since 2003. The program gives participants an opportunity to learn new skills and to interact with the community while increasing their self-worth and benefiting the community. The service area is Commercial Drive from Adanac to 13th Ave. as well as Broadway Ave (around the Skytrain station). The Clean Team also cleans a 'horseshoe' area: Venables (Clark to Commercial); Commercial (Venables to Hastings); Hastings (Commercial to Clark) five days per week.

The 2015 grant allowed The Kettle to provide 1800 hours of life skills and job training, and employment opportunities to 4 regular members through their SEED Employment Program. As a result, some of these participants have and will be able to find long term employment and housing. The program also resulted in approximately 800 bags of litter being cleaned up from an area covering 15 blocks of streets and sidewalks in the Commercial Drive area. The SEED Clean Team receives external funding from the Commercial Drive BIA. The City's street cleaning grant allows The Kettle to sustain their current program and extend it to more people in need.