



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 17, 2017
Contact: Mary Clare Zak
Contact No.: 604.871.6643
RTS No.: 11981
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: October 31, 2017

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager Community Services
SUBJECT: 2017 Social Innovation Project and Other Social Grants

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve three Social Innovation Project (SIP) grants totalling \$162,087 to three non-profit organizations to support Reconciliation and Truth and Reconciliation efforts and influence systems change: BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS); Network of Inner City Community Social Services (NICCSS); and, Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU); source of funding is the 2017 Social Innovation Project Grants budget.
- B. THAT Council approve one grant of \$10,000 to Qmunity: BC's Queer Resource Centre to develop and deliver training workshops for Early Childhood Educators and Family Resource Program Staff on Trans, Gender Variant and Two-Spirit inclusion; source of funding is the 2017 Childcare Grants Operating Budget.
- C. THAT Council approve a reallocation of up to \$200,000 of the Vancouver School Board (VSB) Community Partnership program budget to expand terms so that funds can be used to support new spaces for licensed out of school care in non VSB sites as well as replacement spaces in VSB sites; source of funding is the 2017 Capital Budget 2017 Capital Budget for Childcare - Grants - before and after school care (5-12yrs).
- D. THAT Council authorize the General Manager of Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disperse the grants described in Recommendations A and B on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager of Community Services and Director of Legal Services.

- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of Recommendations A through B unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

Recommendations A, B and C authorize grants and require 2/3 affirmative votes for approval.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends a total of four social grants to registered non-profit organizations in the amount of \$172,087 (Table 1) as well as the expansion of terms to the VSB Partnership Program that will:

- Support Reconciliation and Truth and Reconciliation efforts and influence creative approaches to social problems and systems change by:
 - Supporting transitions to kindergarten for Aboriginal children and families and creating culturally responsive school settings;
 - Building restorative relationships with DTES service providers;
 - Creating collaboration between Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal peer led organizations by using Aboriginal talking circles to support processes to identify solutions to the overdose crisis;
- Supporting inclusion for all families and genders through training workshops for early childhood educators and family resource program staff on trans, gender variant and Two-Spirit inclusion; and
- Create new school age care spaces and retain existing spaces in retrofitted schools.

Grants align with Healthy City Strategy goals and together, will involve a minimum of 30 different partners including community organizations, the VSB and other funders such as the United Way of the Lower Mainland and the Vancouver Foundation.

Table 1: Summary of Recommended Social Grants in this Report

Grant Stream	Council Strategies Addressed	Healthy City Strategy Goals	# of Grants	Total Recommended Funding
Social Innovation Project (SIP) Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truth & Reconciliation Commitments • Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions • DTES Local Area Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Human Services • Being and Feeling Safe and Included • Cultivating Connections • Expressing Ourselves • Collaborative Leadership 	3	\$162,087
Childcare Grants	Trans*, Gender Variant and Two-Spirit Inclusion at the City of Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Good Start • Being and Feeling Safe and Included 	1	\$10,000
TOTAL			4	\$172,087

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**TGV2S inclusion:**

- (a) July 2015, Council passed a motion Ensuring Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver, demonstrating the City's ongoing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion by tackling forms of exclusion and discrimination for trans*, gender variant and two-spirit people.
- (b) July 2016, Council adopted a recommendation that called for the updating of City grants priorities to reflect TGV2S inclusion.

City of Reconciliation and Truth & Reconciliation Commitments:

- (a) In 2014, Council passed a motion to reaffirm its commitment to designate Vancouver as a City of Reconciliation.
- (b) In 2016, Council adopted in principle, the City's response to 27 out of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action with the identification of 41 City initiatives under 3 themes: Healthy Communities and Wellness; Achieving Aboriginal Human Rights and Recognition; and, Advancing Awareness, Knowledge, and Capacity.

Healthy City Strategy: October 2014, Council approved goals, targets and indicators of the Healthy City Strategy 2014-2025 and in 2015 the Phase I Action Plan.

Social Innovation Project (SIP) Grants Program: July 2013, Council approved an allocation model in which \$200,000 would be used annually to fund one-time projects for up to two years to encourage innovative approaches to addressing social issues.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

REPORT***Background/Context***

The City uses social grants as a tool to further Council priorities. With the adoption of the Healthy City Strategy, the City established a comprehensive vision for equity and inclusion through a Healthy City for All. Social grants are a key component in the City's toolbox for supporting the HCS goals and targets.

The three grant streams addressed in this report are discussed below.

A. Social Innovation Project (SIP) Grants

SIP grants support organizations to approach social problems creatively; address emerging needs; and/or pilot new and innovative methods to address social isolation, build resilient communities and/or strengthen the non-profit sector.

For the past three years, Social Policy has worked in partnership with the Vancouver Foundation to support social innovation projects and broaden our collective understanding of how funders can support the non-profit sector to develop socially innovative projects that foster systemic change.

There was a particular effort made this year on building capacity in Aboriginal communities and Reconciliation and Truth and Reconciliation commitments. Five project proposals with funding requests totalling \$265,000 were received. Three are being recommended for SIP funding (Table 2) and described in detail in Appendix A. As part of the partnership with the Vancouver Foundation, all five proposals have been forwarded to the Vancouver Foundation's grant review processes for consideration. Appendix B describes the administrative process for the 2017 grant call. Appendix C lists the two proposals not recommended by staff.

Table 2: Recommended Social Innovation Project (SIP) Grants

Organization	Project	Project Budget	Funding Request	Recommended Funding
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)	Transitions for Urban Aboriginal Children and Families	\$100,000 over 2 years	\$50,000 over 2 years	\$50,000 over 2 years
NICCS - Pacific Association of First Nations Women	Restoring Right Relationship Circles Project	\$622,800 over 2 years	\$100,000 over 2 years	\$100,000 over 2 years
Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)	Peer-led Interagency Talking Circle Project	\$111,952 over 2 years	\$45,000 over 1 year	\$12,087 over 1 year
TOTALS		\$834,752	195,000	\$162,087

B. Early Learning and Care - Childcare Grants

This report recommends one childcare grant (Table 3). The grant supports Council's direction to staff in July 2016 to focus on the Quick Starts contained in the report *Supporting Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver*, including updating City grants priorities to reflect TGV2S inclusion. The recommended project was developed in consultation with Qmunity and Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, with the grant source to be from the unallocated balance of the 2017 Childcare Operating budget.

Table 3: Recommended Childcare Grant

Organization	Project	Project Budget	Funding Request	Recommended Funding
Qmunity: BC's Queer Resource Centre	Training for Early Childhood Educators and Family Resource Program Staff on Trans, Gender Variant and Two-Spirit inclusion	\$19,510	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTALS		\$19,510	\$10,000	\$10,000

C. VSB Community Partnership Program funds

The VSB Community Partnership Program was created in 2011 and is intended to create licensed before and after school childcare spaces by renovating available VSB space. Since its inception in 2011, 490 new licensed school age care spaces in 23 schools have been created at an average cost per space to the City of approximately \$550.00. These spaces have helped the City reach the 1000 new space target by 2018, as described below. The 0-4 target has been exceeded by 26%, however the 5-12 target has reached 52% of the target, or 260 spaces out of 500. The recommendation in this report will provide opportunities to increase numbers of school age care spaces.

Table 4: City of Vancouver Child Care Targets and Progress (to July 31, 2017)

City of Vancouver 2015-2018 Child Care Targets and Progress Against Targets (as of July 31, 2017)					
	Council Target: New Spaces	Built Spaces	Committed Spaces	Total Built and Committed	% of Target Achieved
	2015-18				
Ages 0-4	500	69	561	630	126.0%
Ages 5-12	500	260	0	260	52.0%
TOTAL	1000	329	561	890	89.0%

Strategic Analysis

The social policy grants recommended in this report support the City's Reconciliation and Truth and Reconciliation efforts, TGV2S inclusion, and early childhood education and care. In particular, these projects will:

- 1) **Improve the systems that support Aboriginal children in making the transition into the public school system.**

[BC Aboriginal Child Care Association Society (BCACCS): \$50,000]

Aboriginal children and families transitioning into formal schooling in urban settings, including those who have recently move to Vancouver from First Nations reserves, are not provided with support that adequately respects and supports cultural identities. The "Transitions" pilot project will help document and share knowledge about barriers that urban Aboriginal children and families' face and identify ways that systems can adapt to provide supportive and culturally safe transitions into formal schooling. The project will use Aboriginal methodology, involve those most affected and promote Aboriginal leadership and partnership.

BCACCS is a recognized leader in Aboriginal early childhood and family policy and practice. The project partners include the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), Musqueam First Nation and the Vancouver School Board.

- 2) **Provide training and support to staff and clients of front line organizations in the Downtown East Side (DTES) to understand Aboriginal ways of being and build safe and inclusive communities.**

[Network of Inner City Community Social Services (NICCSS) in partnership with the Pacific Association of First Nations Women (PAFNW): \$100,000]

The project engages the Aboriginal community, leadership and Allies with Aboriginal Restorative Relationship Practices to address cycles of poverty, violence and self-harm caused by systemic racism and institutionalized 'power over' by applying an Aboriginal collective cultural lens of 'power with'. Over the course of two years, the project will recruit and train 44 Restorative Relationship Coaches from at least fourteen Aboriginal agencies to deliver cycles of monthly training that will reach hundreds of Aboriginal & Ally clients.

NICCSS is a recognized leader in facilitating collaborative approaches to addressing community issues in the DTES. PAFNW has delivered health and social programs for Aboriginal women and their families for nearly four decades. Other project partners include Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, the DTES Women's Centre and the Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society.

- 3) **Build bridges of support between DTES peer-led organizations impacted by the overdose crisis by creating an interagency talking circle approach based on Aboriginal knowledge and practice.**

[Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU): \$12,087]

Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS) has developed a peer-facilitated talking circles program for its membership that has allowed its members to express their experiences as Aboriginal people who use substances. Members of WAHRS, VANDU and the BC Association of People on Methadone (BCAPOM) believe that expanding access to the talking circles to members of all three organizations would allow for more shared learning opportunities between the groups. The circles will help identify current gaps in policies and programs and inspire the three organizations to work together to create positive change within their organizations, and enable them to develop shared priorities for acting collectively to influence broader social attitudes toward, and support for, drug users.

VANDU is partnering on this project with the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS) and the British Columbia Association of People on Methadone (BCAPOM). The Vancouver Foundation has committed \$10,000 to the project.

4) Train Early Childhood Educators and Family Resource Program Staff on TGV2S Inclusion

[Qmunity: BC's Queer Resource Centre: \$10,000]

This project will bring together a unique combination of experience and knowledge of both TGV2S issues and the Early Childhood Education/Family Resource Program environment to help service providers create programs that are welcome to *all* children and families. The project's objectives include:

- Helping participants identify and challenge their own biases, assumptions and behaviours;
- Helping participants understand that children start learning about gender and sexuality at the earliest ages, through their own perceptions and through the actions and expressed attitudes of the adults and other children around them;
- Providing staff with simple tools and strategies to support children to learn about and explore their gender in ways that are affirmative, healthy and supportive.

Qmunity and Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre are recognized non-profit leaders in their respective areas of expertise: this project presents a unique opportunity to co-develop and deliver training on this subject to the early childhood sector. The United Way of the Lower Mainland is co-funding the project and will be contributing \$6,000.

5) Change of use for up to \$200,000 of VSB Community Partnership program funds to support creation of school age care spaces in non-VSB sites.

Expanding the scope of Community Partnership Program funds will assist in meeting the City's 2015-18 childcare targets (Table 4).

Reallocation of a portion of the program funds will generate opportunities to create school age care spaces in non-VSB sites such as neighbourhood houses, and to retain existing school age care space allocations in VSB schools that are undergoing seismic renovation. The VSB is in support of the reallocation and City staff are requesting Council approval to reallocate up to \$200,000 of the approximately \$606,000 remaining in the Program budget.

Partnerships and Leverage: In total, the 5 funding recommendations will involve 30 partners both through in kind and financial resources. The Social Innovation Project grants, with contributions from private foundations, fundraising and volunteer resources, will leverage from \$1.00 to \$5.00 for every \$1.00 of City funding. The childcare grant recommendation will leverage roughly 1:1 funding.

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

Funding for the grants in Recommendation A and B are included in the Community Services social grant budget as outlined in the table below.

Recommendation	Grant Stream	2017 Budget	Previously Approved	Approved in this report	Balance
A	Social Innovation Project	436,087	274,000	162,087	-
B	Childcare Operating Grant	1,507,538	1,424,106	10,000	73,432
	TOTAL	1,943,625	1,698,106	172,087	73,432

Recommendation C:

Reallocation of up to \$200,000 of the Vancouver School Board (VSB) Community Partnership program budget to expand terms so that funds can be used to support new spaces for licensed out of school care in non VSB sites as well as replacement spaces in VSB sites. Source of funds is the 2017 Capital Budget for Childcare - Grants - before & after school care (5-12yrs).

CONCLUSION

The grants outlined in this report provide important contributions to innovative solutions in Vancouver and to mitigating conditions and systems that foster vulnerability and marginalization. The grants also support City livability and social development objectives of the City and contribute to our residents' wellbeing. The reallocation of VSB Community Partnership Program funds will enable creation/retention of critically needed school age care spaces in the city and assist in achieving the City's childcare targets.

* * * * *

Summary of Projects Being Recommended for 2017 Social Innovation Project (SIP) Grants

1) BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)

Aboriginal children and families transitioning into formal schooling in urban settings are not provided with support that adequately respects and supports their cultural identities nor that helps to alleviate their social disadvantage. This is most clearly seen in transitions from Aboriginal-led pre-school and daycare (e.g., Aboriginal Head Start) to the K-12 public school system. The “Transitions” pilot project will help document, develop, share and deploy knowledge about some of barriers urban Aboriginal children and families’ face and the continuing stresses of these challenges on their cultures and communities. It will then identify ways in which systems can adapt to provide supportive and culturally safe transitions into formal schooling. Through Aboriginal methodology and innovative Aboriginal community development, this project will begin with the voices of those most affected, and move toward the promotion and support of Aboriginal leadership and true partnership for the benefit of families their communities.

BCACCS is a recognized leader in Aboriginal early childhood and family policy and practice. The project has key partnerships with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), Musqueam First Nation and the Vancouver School Board.

CoV funding of \$50,000 over two years will be initiated following receipt of a revised project plan to the satisfaction of the Managing Director, Social Policy.

2) NICCS (Pacific Association of First Nation Women) - Restoring Right Relationship (RRR) Circles Training Project

The project engages Aboriginal community, leadership and Allies with Aboriginal Restorative Relationship Practices to address cycles of poverty, violence and self-harm caused by systemic racism and institutionalized 'power over' by applying an Aboriginal collective cultural lens of 'power with'. The RRR Circles project works in partnership with the front-line agencies of Vancouver's Inner City to activate Aboriginal ways of being to build communities of belonging, of feeling safe and included, of collective leadership, of positive wellness action and of Aboriginal inclusion. Over the course of two years, the project will recruit and train 44 Restorative Relationship Coaches from at least fourteen Aboriginal agencies to deliver cycles of monthly training that will reach hundreds of Aboriginal & Ally clients. Ultimately, the project will result in the establishment of fourteen inclusive, ongoing Aboriginal Talking Circles across the inner City.

CoV funding of \$100,000 over two years will be initiated following receipt of a revised project timeline to the satisfaction of the Managing Director, Social Policy.

3) Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)

VANDU is partnering with the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS) and the British Columbia Association of People on Methadone (BCAPOM) to develop and implement an interagency talking circle model.

WAHRS has developed a peer-facilitated talking circles program for its membership that has allowed its members to express their experiences as Aboriginal people who use substances. Members of WAHRS, VANDU and BCAPOM believe that expanding access to the talking circles to members of all three organizations would allow for more shared learning opportunities

between the groups. The circles will help identify current gaps in policies and programs and inspire the three organizations to work together to create positive change within their organizations, and enable them to develop shared priorities for acting collectively to influence broader social attitudes toward, and support for, drug users.

CoV funding of \$12,087 over one year will be initiated following receipt of a revised project timeline to the satisfaction of the Managing Director, Social Policy.

Social Innovation Project (SIP) Grants Administrative Process 2017

The “social innovation cohort” process was first implemented in 2014, with the participation of the City, the Community Action Initiative and the Vancouver Foundation. It was continued in 2015 and 2016 with the City and the Vancouver Foundation.

Based on the learnings from the past three years, including feedback from the non profit organizations involved in the cohorts, as well as on a preliminary review of ‘best practices’ in grant administration, Social Policy staff made a number of changes to the 2017 intake and application process in order to reduce the administrative burden both on the non profit organizations and on City staff, including:

- Implementing a 2-stage application process, in which organizations submitted a 3 page ‘Expression of Interest (EOI).’ Six of the 32 EOIs received by the deadline were then invited to participate in the cohort process designed to support the project teams to develop strong proposals. Five of the six submitted full proposals by the deadline date of September 8th, 2017.
- Reducing the number of full-day workshops from 6 to 1, and increasing the amount of ‘one-to-one’ coaching available to project teams.
- Establishing a separate intake for applications to the City and to the Vancouver Foundation: applications made to the City were then automatically forwarded to Stage 2 of the Vancouver Foundation’s internal selection process.
- Continuing the practice of including external partners (Vancouver Foundation and Stillwater Consulting) in the adjudication process, with the implementation this year of a standardized evaluation matrix that will be adapted for use in all social policy grant streams.

In 2017, the call for SIP program proposals also included an explicit focus on encouraging applications that reflected an Aboriginal perspective on social innovation.

Five proposals were submitted by the September 8th deadline, of which three are being recommended for SIP funding. All five of the proposals have been automatically forwarded to Stage 2 of the Vancouver Foundation’s grant review processes for their “Health & Social Development” and “Education” funding streams, for which the Foundation will announce its funding decisions in December 2017 and March 2018 respectively.

Social Innovation Project Applications Not Being Recommended for Funding

Organization	Project	Funding Request	Reason for Not Recommending
Vancity Community Foundation - Community Economic Development Strategic Action Committee (CEDSAC)	Community Economic Development and Reconciliation	\$85,000 over 2 years	Funding was limited and other proposals ranked higher in the evaluation process.
Network of Inner City Community Services (NICCS)	Aged Out Social Lending	\$125,000 over 2 years	Funding was limited and other proposals ranked higher in the evaluation process.