



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: October 20, 2023
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Meeting Date: October 31, 2023
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Deputy City Manager
SUBJECT: Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Fall 2023 Intake

Recommendation

- A. THAT Council approve 18 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants totaling \$101,500 from the 2023 Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Program Budget to the organizations listed in Table 1 of this Report for the amount set out beside their names.
- B. THAT the grants in Recommendation A be subject to each grant recipient agreeing to the terms and conditions of the City's Community Sport Hosting Grant Program, as generally outlined in this report and otherwise satisfactory to the Director, Sport Hosting Vancouver and the City's Director of Legal Service Solicitor.
- C. THAT Council delegates its authority to negotiate and execute the grant agreements dispersing the grants to the recipients described in Recommendation A to the Director, Sport Hosting Vancouver.
- D. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of the Recommendations A through C above unless and until the grant agreement is executed and delivered by the grant recipient.
- E. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems the organizations listed in Table 1 that are not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be an organization contributing to the culture, beautification, health, or welfare of the City.

Approval of Recommendation A constitutes a grant and therefore requires an affirmative vote of at least-two-thirds of all of Council pursuant to Section 206(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report recommends approval of 18 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grant applications totalling \$101,500. The 2023 Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grant budget is \$235,021, with \$121,421 available to distribute in this intake. This Fall 2023 cycle of grant application intakes will be the third and final of three intakes over 2023.

Council Authority / Previous Decisions

An overview of previous Council decisions related to Community Sport Event Grants are contained in Appendix A.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Background/Context

The Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Program is comprised of the Community Sport Event Grant stream and the Community Sport Champions Recognition Grant stream, both supporting non-profit community sport organizations in the City of Vancouver.

1. Community Sport Event Grants

Community Sport Event Grants provide financial support for sporting events that have the potential to bring direct or indirect economic, social, health and community development benefits to the City of Vancouver. Amounts are distributed annually to support local, regional, and new sport event initiatives. Application intake and eligibility guidelines can be found [here](#).

2. Community Sport Champions Recognition Grants

Community Sport Champions Recognition Grants recognize and celebrate the non-profit organizations and their representatives who are making sport accessible in the City of Vancouver. This stream offers grants to advance the efforts and accomplishments of organizations and recognize the people behind those organizations who deliver sport and physical activity to make a positive impact in our community, while aligning with City Council's key priority areas, including but not limited to, gender equity, reconciliation and affordability. Awards are directed to a certain theme or interest based on City Council priorities and initiatives within that cycle. The chosen theme for 2023 focuses on the recognition of local Indigenous Sport Champions from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (MST) and the Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA). More information and list of past recipients can be found [here](#):

Discussion

All Vancouver Community Sport Event Grant applications are reviewed by a panel comprised of representatives from the Park Board, City of Vancouver and other key stakeholders in the sport hosting community.

This report recommends 18 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants for which applications were received in Fall 2023, under the [approved guidelines](#).

Overview of Local/Regional Sport Events

A brief description of each of the recommended events listed in Table 1 is contained in Appendix A.

**TABLE 1. RECOMMENDED VANCOUVER COMMUNITY
SPORT EVENT GRANT ALLOCATIONS, FALL 2023 INTAKE**

Organization	Event	Date	Grant Recommended
1. Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club	BC Senior Elite Badminton Championships	Nov. 17-19, 2023	\$3,000
2. Vancouver Pacific Swim Club	VPSC Winter Invitational	Dec. 8-10, 2023	\$7,500
3. Vancouver Curling Club Society	Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel	Jan. 19-21, 2023	\$5,000
4. Canadian Dolphin Swim Club	Mies Shootman Invitational Swim Meet 2024	Jan. 19-21, 2023	\$5,000
5. Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club	Yonex Canadian Senior & Para Badminton Championships	Jan. 31- Feb. 3, 2024	\$10,000
6. RUNVAN	First Half	Feb. 11, 2024	\$5,000
7. Canadian Dolphin Swim Club	Swim BC Island and Coastal Vancouver Winter Divisional Championships	Feb. 23-25, 2024	\$10,000
8. Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	Burnwater Spring Sprint/Burnwater Youth Regatta	May 4, 2024	\$5,000
9. Hastings Baseball Club	Fred Ritchie Invitational	May 17-20, 2024	\$5,000
10. Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	Vessi 500 Championship	Jun. 1, 2024	\$5,000
11. Vancouver Gay & Lesbian Tennis Association	Northwest Cup 2024	Jun. 8-9, 2024	\$5,000

Organization	Event	Date	Grant Recommended
12. Vancouver Thunderbirds Track and Field Club	Longest Day Road Race	Jun. 14, 2024	\$2,500
13. Vancouver Comets Netball Association	Vancouver Mixed Tournament 2024	Jun. 15, 2024	\$3,500
14. Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	Get Ready for World Cup 2025	June 29-30, 2024	\$5,000
15. Western Canada Community Projects Society	2024 Four Fires Festival	Jul. 20-21, 2024	\$10,000
16. The Canada One Athletic Foundation	KitsFest 2024	Aug. 9-11, 2024	\$5,000
17. Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	Oddball Fall Classic	Sept. 28, 2024	\$5,000
18. RUNVAN	2024 Turkey Trot	Oct. 14, 2024	\$5,000
TOTAL			\$101,500

Financial Implications

The recommended Community Sport Hosting Event Grants will be funded from the 2023 Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Program Budget as detailed below.

TABLE 2. VANCOUVER COMMUNITY SPORT EVENT GRANTS, FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Program Stream	2023 Budget	Previously Approved Grants	Current Report Recommended Grants	2023 Balance Remaining
Community Sport Event Grant Program	\$235,021	\$113,600	\$101,500	\$19,921
Total	\$235,021	\$113,600	\$101,500	\$19,921

Conclusion

The Vancouver Community Sport Event Grant review panel recommends that Council approve 18 grants totalling \$101,500 as outlined in the body of this report. The recommendations are the product of a comprehensive and thoughtful review process consistent with the policy and guidelines approved by Council. This is the second of three application intakes for fiscal 2023.

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APPENDIX A COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

This appendix provides an overview of previous Council decisions related to Community Sport Hosting Grants:

2004: Council approved a policy statement in support of celebrations, sporting events and special events: “Council welcomes celebrations and special events for their contribution in making Vancouver a vibrant City, in reflecting our cultural diversity and neighbourhood character, and for economic, cultural and recreational benefits they bring to the City. Council supports the facilitation of these events by staff, encourages mitigation of short-term disruptions in neighbourhoods and encourages cities to welcome these activities and to participate in them.”

2006: Council approved a Sport Hosting Policy and Sport Hosting Grant Program effective January 1, 2007, with annual funding of \$200,000 to support a range of sporting events.

2008: Council adopted the Vancouver Sport Strategy as a guide to the City’s future initiatives and engagement with sport programs, facilities and events.

2011: Council approved revisions to the Sport Hosting Grant Program guidelines to improve the effectiveness of the grant and better serve local sport organizations.

2015: Council adopted the Sport Hosting Vancouver Action Plan, and approved the creation of the Sport Tourism Development Fund with funding of \$1.0 million over 2 years as the City’s commitment to this Fund which will support MAJOR sport events that advance the Sport Hosting Vancouver Action Plan goals. In that same decision, Council approved the change of name from the City’s current ‘Sport Hosting Grant Program’ to the ‘Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grant Program’, and directed staff to review the program and provide recommendations for any changes necessary to enhance the grant program. This grant program has an ongoing annual Operating Budget funding of \$200,000.

2016: Council approved revisions to the ‘Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grant Program’, expanding the type of events that are eligible for funding at a community level, including Local or Regional Sport Tournaments, New Sport Event Initiatives, and Annual Sport Events.

2019: Council approved the recommendations for the City Participation in Women Deliver 2019 Conference (RTS 12946) including approval of the allocation of \$35,000 from the 2019 Sport Hosting Program budget to launch the new program stream of “Community Sport Champions Recognition” that will align with the themed Women Deliver objectives. Each year, the theme of the recognition program will change.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

APPENDIX B
OVERVIEW OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL SPORT TOURNAMENT
GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS, FALL 2023 INTAKE

This appendix provides a brief description of each of the recommended events listed in Table 1 of this report.

1. **2023 BC Senior Elite Badminton Championships (*Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club*):** The BC Senior Elite Badminton Championships is one of 3 Regional Adult National Competitions designed to help athletes gain experience and points towards qualifying for National Teams. As such, these championships attract the top national and provincial athletes from across the country. This is an open age group competition therefore anyone in Canada and potentially internationally can participate in this event.
2. **2023 VPSC Winter Invitational (*Vancouver Pacific Swim Club*):** Filling the gap in racing in Western Canada and seen as the equivalent of Ontario's Junior International. The VPSC Winter Invite will be a long course meet and not limited to adult swimmers. The meet will offer approximately 30 events to qualified swimmers, and swimmers have time standard they will be required to meet to be eligible for this event.
3. **2024 Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel (*Vancouver Curling Club*):** Since 1984 the Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel is an annual event that is now celebrating it's 42nd year in 2024. The event is hosted by the Pacific Rim Curling League (PRCL), a 2SLGBTQ+ oriented league which boasts a membership of 240+. It is both the largest curling league at the Vancouver Curling Club, as well as the largest in the province of BC. The Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel attracts local and inter-provincial participation with over 130 athletes taking part. The event also attracts over 100 guests and spectators throughout the three days. 64 games of curling will be played over the course of three days and spectators are invited to attend for all games.
4. **2024 Mies Schootman Invitational Swim Meet (*Canadian Dolphin Swim Club*):** Previously called the CDSC New Year's Invitational Meet, the event has been held at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre annually for the past 13 years. This meet is our major invitational meet and our signature event that draws approximately 450 age group (youth) swimmers, their coaches and supporters from swim clubs all over the Lower Mainland as well as some clubs from other parts of BC. The event is run by parent volunteers and volunteer office.
5. **2024 Yonex Canadian Senior & Para Badminton Championships (*Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club*):** The Yonex Canadian Senior & Para Badminton Championships is the premier event in the domestic Badminton Calendar. The Nationals attract attention from a variety of sectors, not only competitive, but from a fan base as well who simply want to see the best of the best vie for titles. This is an open age group competition therefore anyone in Canada and potentially internationally, can participate.
6. **2024 First Half – (*RUNVAN*):** Originally a starter warm up event to the BMO Vancouver Marathon, the 'First Half' has become a staple event in the City's vibrant running culture. Now proudly party of the RUNVAN family, Canada's fastest half marathon offers a stunning out-and-back course along the Seawall and Stanley Park before returning to

historic Yaletown. The event welcomes both elites, Olympian caliber athletes, as well as the everyday runner.

- 7. Swim BC Island and Coastal Vancouver Winter Divisional Championship (*Canadian Dolphin Swim Club*):** Divisional Championships are open to all Swim BC registered youth swimmers from the Island and Vancouver Coastal regions, including para swimmers. Swim Bc encourages inclusion and the development of the sport of swimming among indigenous youth. Swim BC members include youth from diverse ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, all striving towards their personal goals without boundaries. The Competition gives the swimmers the opportunity to compete against each other without the expense of travelling to other regions of the Province or outside of BC.
- 8. Burnwater Spring Sprint/Burnwater Youth Regatta (*Canadian International Dragon Boat festival Society*):** The Burnwater Youth Regatta (BYR) sets the tone in the morning, and Burnwater Spring Sprint (BSS) in the afternoon brings the speed, as our one-day season opener race marks dragon boat's annual return to False Creek. The BYR is Western Canada's only youth-focused dragon boat race. The race features high school teams from around the Sea to Sky corridor, Lower Mainland, and Fraser Valley, as well as local under-24 teams from the community and post-secondary institutions. In 2023, the BYR was introduced as a trial event, and thanks to community support and enthusiasm, we're excited to continue it for 2024. This fulfills an important niche in the race calendar by adding a season-opening 500M race distance, which otherwise would not be held until early June.
- 9. 2024 Fred Ritchie Invitational Tournament (*Hastings Baseball Club*):** Hosting approximately 12-16 little league teams from the Greater Vancouver area and Fraser Valley; this year we will extend our invitations to clubs from the Greater Victoria area who have expressed an interest in attending. A limited number of clubs from Hastings Community Little League will participate. It will include a round robin tournament format played between 3 baseball fields (Richard Saunders Field and the 2 fields at Falaise Park). This tournament is among the only Little League tournaments in the lower mainland for the 9-10 year old age group as most other associations did not re-start their tournaments in this age group post-pandemic. We anticipate hosting approximately 26-32 baseball games over the weekend.
- 10. Vessi 500 Championship (*Canadian International Dragon Boat festival Society*):** The Vessi 500 Championship (V500) is BC's second largest dragon boat race with over 100 teams racing in Mixed, Women, and Open divisions. Racers range in age from 12 to 80+ reflecting our desire to create opportunities for everyone to participate in sport at a range of levels.
- 11. 2024 Northwest Cup (*Vancouver Gay & Lesbian Tennis Society*):** The Northwest Cup is a team-based tennis competition between the top players from each LGBTQ2S+ tennis club from Portland, Seattle and Vancouver. This annual event is hosted by each city on a rotating basis and in 2024, Vancouver is proud to host for the first time since 2019.
- 12. 2024 Longest Day Road Race (*Vancouver Thunderbirds Track and Field Club*):** The Event is a celebration of running and a welcome of the summer, a time for the community to come together to enjoy an evening of running followed by a social event in

the form of a bbq and party with music and kid's events. The event raises funds for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank and Elementary Track and Field Outreach Programs.

- 13. 2024 Vancouver Mixed Netball Tournament (*Vancouver Comets Netball Association*):** Following the success of the 2023 tournament, the Vancouver Mixed Netball Tournament will return to UBC in June 2024. The tournament will serve over 150 athletes, umpires and spectators from across BC, Alberta and the west coast of the USA.
- 14. Get Ready 4 World Cup 2025 (*Latincouver Cultural & Business Society*):** "Ready4 World Cup 2025" transcends the label of a mere soccer tournament; it embodies cultural pride, camaraderie, and the unifying spirit of teamwork. In Latin American communities, soccer is more than just a sport—it symbolizes unity, collaboration, and a shared heritage that transcends borders. By bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds, the event effectively dismantles language barriers, creating an environment of inclusivity where everyone can partake in the passion for the beautiful game.
- 15. 2024 Four Fires Festival (*Western Canada Community Projects Society*):** After an absence of more than 100 years, Indigenous war canoe races made a thrilling comeback in 2022 at the two day flagship event, the First Annual Four Fires Festival. Four Fires Festival features indigenous canoe racing, a professional performance stage, an artisans village and host of other Indigenous arts and cultural based activities. The festival organization is assisted by the canoe clubs of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, as well as additional support from the cultural community of Metro Vancouver.
- 16. KitsFest 2024 (*The Canada One Athletic Foundation*):** "Vancouver's #1 Sports & Arts Beach Festival". BC's Premier Amateur Sports, Healthy Living, and Active Lifestyle Summer Festival. The culmination of ~12 sports divisions/events; incorporating free public exhibits and entertainment for all ages.
- 17. Oddball Fall Classic (*Canadian International Dragon Boat festival Society*):** Celebrate the end of the racing season and the arrival of Fall alongside 80+ teams on False Creek in one of the region's signature events at the Oddball Fall Classic (OFC)! And, closing out the racing calendar- teams are invited to step up to the ultimate challenge. The Oddball 2K Challenge is the final race in BC and closes out the season, with teams of all ranges having the chance to step up and test their grit on the water.
- 18. Turkey Trot (*RUNVAM*)** – The Granville Island Turkey Trot is a hallmark event for Granville Island and the Vancouver running community. The annual event brings together runners in celebration of Thanksgiving, demonstrating our community of running, our gratitude for sport, and our commitment to supporting others. Participants are encouraged to 'Run & Give' in support of the event's charity partner, the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Event distances include a fun 10km and Kids Run.