

Federation
of Citizens'
Associations
of Ottawa

fca-fac

Fédération
des associations
civiques
d'Ottawa

Ste. 146, 207 Bank Str., Ottawa ON K2P 2N2

February 1, 2024

Mayor Mark Sutcliffe
Chair, Finance & Corporate Services Committee
City of Ottawa

Dear Mayor Sutcliffe:

**Re. Community Partnership Insurance Program report
at F&CS Committee Feb. 6, 2024**

On Tuesday February 6 the City's Finance & Corporate Services Committee will be dealing with a staff report on the future of the City's Community Partnership Insurance Program (CPIP). As you know, the Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA – representing 72 community groups in Ottawa) has been deeply involved in this issue for now 2 years.

We realize that the current CPIP (a closed legacy program) needs revision to ensure better equity on covering the insurance needs of community-based activities. To this end we support the following:

- **Continuation of a City-provided insurance-based program for "traditional" community association-type groups engaging in events and activities at the local level, with other groups (cultural, sports, hobby/leisure, etc.) directed to the existing City of Ottawa Civic Events funding stream;**
- **To be eligible, groups participating in this program be required to: operate within the City of Ottawa as a not-for-profit group; meet the definition of a partner, community group or community association as defined by the City of Ottawa; have been in existence for at least 2 years or have been incorporated; demonstrate financial viability and be in good standing with the City of Ottawa; be located in Ottawa and serve the residents of Ottawa and their local catchment areas as a community group / association; be governed by a democratically elected Board of Directors or Committee, and; demonstrate good governance practices by holding an Annual General Meeting, and also have a Board approved Constitution or by-laws;**
- **Provision of Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Benefits to cover volunteers as part of this program.**

As you know, City staff have conducted two community consultation sessions which attracted nearly 200 participants. City staff outlined 3 options at these sessions:

Option 1 - which mirrors the FCA position above;

Option 2 - which would allocate the current CPIP budget of \$234,000 to the City's Community Funding envelope; community groups must be eligible under Community Funding rules and apply for funds to purchase their own insurance;

Option 3 – similar to Option 2 except the \$234,000 CPIP funds would go to a dedicated Community Insurance Fund; community groups must be eligible and apply for funds to purchase their own insurance.

It should come as no surprise that the overwhelming majority of participants (representing community groups across the city) at these two consultation sessions favoured Option 1.

The advantages of Option 1 to the City is that insurance coverage of current community-based events and activities would continue, and that the closed nature of the current CPIP would end. For non neighbourhood-based events and activities those groups (eg cultural, sports, hobby/leisure) would be directed to the existing Community Funding envelope for funds to support their activities.

The advantages of Option 1 to neighbourhood-based community groups that are eligible (according to the criteria we have proposed) is that the City provides the required insurance for the activity in question, relieving these volunteer-based community groups of the burden of seeking insurance coverage. It enables the traditional activities that the City has supported in the past to continue.

The disadvantages of Option 2 and 3 is that these options shift the burden of purchasing insurance coverage onto community groups, which are volunteer-based and often lack the time, expertise and administrative capacity to seek appropriate insurance. This would create a barrier to the ability of these groups to provide neighbourhood-based activities that many value. As well, as there is a funding limit in both options (\$234,000) community groups would have to compete to access these funds, which may lead to the loss of these activities in some parts of the city.

We believe that Option 1 is both reasonable and financially responsible. It enables those neighbourhood-based activities and events to continue through the provision of City insurance – in essence salvaging the CPIP to continue to support neighbourhood-based activities that residents value.

We ask for your support for this Option.

Yours truly,

Robert Brinker

President, FCA

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