



## **Governance and Priorities Committee Report**

### **For the Meeting of June 4, 2015**

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** May 27, 2015  
**From:** Julie MacDougall, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation  
**Subject:** Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Fund

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#### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Fund and to seek Council approval to apply for funding.

On May 15, 2015, the Government of Canada announced the new program and will invest \$150 million over two years across Canada, with \$46.2 million targeted for the West (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba). The objective in Western Canada is to ensure a lasting legacy with a strong preference given to upgrades to existing cultural and community facilities that will provide long term benefits and will be viewed with pride by the community.

The types of projects that will be considered include community centres, cultural centres, parks, trails, bike paths, libraries, recreation facilities, tourism facilities, docks and cenotaphs. Strong preference will be given to projects where there is a strong ability/capacity to complete them by fall 2017. The maximum grant award is \$500,000 and can be no more than 50% of the project costs. Preference will also be given to projects where funding sources other than the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program are confirmed or intended.

In developing this recommendation staff reviewed potential projects in the context of the program funding criteria as well as the City's Strategic and Financial Plans. Priority projects include Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, Library, Vic High field/sports facility, David Foster Harbour Pathway and Victoria West Park improvements. With the exception of Victoria West Park and David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements the other projects are not yet well enough defined to prepare a funding request. The David Foster Harbour Pathway project best meets the funding criteria, is a strong project and staff have enough information to prepare and submit the application, by the deadline.

In addition stakeholder support for this project has been confirmed. On May 19, 2015 a meeting was convened by the Chamber of Commerce that had broad community representation including City staff, which was chaired by the CEO from the Royal British Columbia Museum. While the focus of the meeting was around signature events to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, a number of infrastructure projects were referenced, indicating that there would be support for advancing David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements.

Applications are due on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and only one intake is planned.

**Recommendations:**

That Council:

1. Instruct staff to submit a grant application to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Fund for David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements.
2. Authorize the Mayor and the Corporate Administrator to execute any agreement related to a successful grant application.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie MacDougall  
Assistant Director  
Parks and Recreation




Thomas Soulliere  
Director,  
Parks and Recreation



Susanne Thompson  
Director, Finance

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:**

**Date:**

  
May 28, 2015



## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Fund and to seek Council approval to apply for funding.

## **Background**

On May 15, 2015, the Federal Government announced the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program. The vision of the program "Giving Back to Canada", will see an investment of \$150 million over the next two years to support projects that will rehabilitate community facilities resulting in a lasting legacy from the program. The funding available for Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) is \$46.2 million and will be administered by Western Economic Diversification. Two groups of projects will be funded with the intent of allocating evenly between them:

- Those seeking up to \$250,000; and
- Those seeking between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

The types of projects that are eligible for funding include community centres, cultural centres and museums, parks, recreation trails, libraries, recreation facilities, tourism facilities, docks, cenotaphs and other community infrastructure for public benefit. The maximum funding requested cannot exceed 50% of the total costs, including any other Federal Funding received to-date.

Other key eligibility criteria:

- Be for rehabilitation, renovation or expansion of existing infrastructure for public use;
- Be community-oriented, non-commercial, and open for use to the public; and,
- Be materially complete by March 31, 2018, with preference given to projects substantially complete by fall 2017.

The attributes of a strong project as identified in the program will meet the following criteria:

- Projects that will rehabilitate existing cultural and community facilities that will leave a meaningful lasting legacy resulting from Canada 150;
- Projects where funding from sources other than the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure program is confirmed or intended (requires written proof); and,
- The applicant has demonstrated an ability to complete the project by the fall of 2017.

The application must be fully complete and submitted by June 17, 2015, and the applicant must be available for follow-up until the end of August.

On May 19, 2015 there was a meeting convened by the Chamber of Commerce that had broad community representation including City staff, which was chaired by the CEO from the Royal BC Museum. While the focus of the meeting was around signature events to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, a number of infrastructure projects were referenced, indicating that there would be support for advancing David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements. The community partners that were at this meeting included Department of National Defence, SportHost, Tourism Victoria, Butchart Gardens, Greater Victoria Public Library, Sisters of Saint Ann's, Volunteer Victoria, Hatley Park, Hotel Association of Greater Victoria, Victoria Francophone Society and the Victoria Symphony Orchestra.



## **Issues & Analysis**

In developing this recommendation staff reviewed potential projects in the context of the program funding guidelines and criteria as well as the City's Strategic and Financial Plans. Priority projects include Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, Library, Victoria High field/sports facility, David Foster Harbour Pathway and Victoria West park improvements. With the exception of Victoria West Park and David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements the other projects are not yet well enough defined to prepare a funding request.

Advancing the implementation of David Foster Harbour pathway provides for a significant contribution to a public amenity within the City that will be a meaningful legacy for future generations. Further, several organizations have developed funding agreements for improvements to the pathway that align well with this application. This includes partnerships with Trans Canada Trail, VanCity and the David Foster Foundation, for a combined total of over \$1,550,000 of funding towards this project. The City has included the David Foster Harbour Pathway in the 2015 Financial Plan and has identified \$3,133,000 towards improvements over the next two years. This combination of funding sources, the significance of the pathway in the City of Victoria and the capacity to deliver the project makes David Foster Harbour Pathway a strong project as per the funding guidelines.

A second project that can be delivered and is contained in the City's 2015 Financial Plan are improvements to Victoria West Park. The consultation and design of the improvements for this park, which provides City-wide as well as neighbourhood amenities, will be underway later this spring. Victoria West Park has many features that also make it an attractive project in that much of the infrastructure is in need of refurbishment including the skate park (the only one within the City), the playground, the sports fields and the leash-optional dog area. This project currently does not have additional funding partners beyond what will be proposed in the 2016 Financial Plan. While also a eligible project, the impact of the improvements are not as broad in scope as David Foster Harbour Pathway.

## **Options & Impacts**

There are three options available to Council.

1. Instruct staff to submit a grant application for David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. (recommended)

This option authorizes staff to complete and submit an application for the first intake. An application for the funding of this project provides for a strong application. Given the size and scope of the project the maximum funding mount would be requested.

2. Instruct staff to submit a grant application for Victoria West Park improvements to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.

This project meets the criteria, however, the scope of the improvements and legacy in the City and neighbourhood may not be viewed as strong as option 1.

## **Recommendations**

That Council:

1. Instruct staff to submit a grant application to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Fund for David Foster Harbour Pathway improvements.
2. Authorize the Mayor and the Corporate Administrator to execute any agreement related to a successful grant application.