

Christine Havelka

From: webforms@victoria.ca
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 9:50 PM
To: Council Secretary
Subject: Thank you for your submission - City of Victoria - Address Council Form

Name: Wayne Shillington

Date: January
12, 2016

Address: 225 Menzies St. - Apt 214

I wish to appear at the following Council meeting: January 14, 2016

I represent: James Bay Neighbourhood Association in Cooperation with 5
other Neighbourhood Associationse

Topic: Creating Equity Among all City of Victoria Neighbourhoods

Action you wish Council to take:

Acknowledge the funded operational capacity inequity that exists between the City's 6 Neighbourhood/Community Associations with City funded Community Centres and the City's 6 Neighbourhood/Community Associations without a City funded Community Centre. Community Centres submit budget requests that are considered through the City's annual budget approval process. Effective for 2016, City Council should extend that same budget development and funding opportunity to all Neighbourhood Associations not just those with Community Centres.

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Comparison of Victoria Neighbourhoods – a Problem of Inequity

The City of Victoria's Neighbourhood Base Grant Guidelines state "This funding is intended to complement what may already be in place in the neighbourhoods and support needs and potentials not met through Community Centre funding."

6 Neighbourhoods With a City Funded and Neighbourhood Association (NA) Operated Community Centre	6 Neighbourhoods Without a City Funded and Neighbourhood Association (NA) Operated Community Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre provides meeting room space at no cost for: public meetings, NA Board or committee meetings, land use meetings, and other ad hoc or project meetings. • The Centre provides storage space for files, supplies, and materials. • The Centre provides administrative space for mail, copying, printing, computer work, telephone, etc. and Board members or committee/project volunteers have use of the space, equipment, and materials. • To use the Centre, NA volunteers need only make arrangements with the Centre staff. • The Centre provides a highly visible presence for the NA in the neighbourhood. • Since space and administrative capacity are provided by the Centre, all or nearly all the per capita base grant is available for the NA to use on community enrichment and engagement activities as specified in the Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting room space for larger meetings must be rented or borrowed. • Mail, files, small meetings, and storage needs are most often met by using individuals' homes. Some NAs use various donated space for small meetings and some storage. NAs with more frequent small meetings, struggle with access to consistent and adequate space. • Operational issues and constraints are a serious issue for the NAs and a burden for the NA volunteers. • There is no visible presence for the NA in the community. • NAs using free borrowed space preserve most of their per capita grant for other priorities while struggling through their operational capacity problems. • In situations where free space is not available or is inadequate, NAs use most of the per capita grant to fund space rental and administration expenses.

The solution to achieve equity is simple

Community Centres submit budget requests that are considered through the City's annual budget approval process. The City should extend that same budget development and funding opportunity to all 12 Neighbourhood Associations. As with the Community Centres, funding would vary among neighbourhoods based on a specific operational plan and budget developed and submitted by each neighbourhood association.