

# **Town of Riverview**

## **COUNCIL REPORT FORM**



Presented to: Mayor & Council

Department: Corporate Services

Date: November 20, 2018

Subject: Atlantic Wellness Centre – Relationship Grant

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### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2014 the Atlantic Wellness Centre has been requesting and receiving an annual grant from the Town of Riverview through our Community Investment Grants program, with the exception of 2015. In 2014 council granted \$500, there was no request in 2015, in 2016 they received \$5,000 and in 2017 and 2018 they received \$10,000.

Recently Council received the attached correspondence from the Atlantic Wellness Centre requesting that they be included as one of the town's "Relationship Grants" with a long term commitment of \$10,000 per annum.

In July of 2018 the "Relationship Grant" section of the Community Investment Policy was added to put procedures in place to help track the three organizations that receive substantial funding from the town but are not required to go through the Annual Grant process each year.

Although these three organizations receive their funding under the grants budget, they have historically been treated differently due to their large amounts. It should be noted as well that these organizations must be approved each year through Council's budget deliberations.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Financial:**

The Atlantic Wellness Centre is requesting Council's assistance with a long term commitment of \$10,000 per annum, however, as noted above, Council does not provide guaranteed long term commitment to any organization. The "Relationship Grants" are discussed and approved each year during budget deliberations.

#### **Policy:**

The Town's Community Investment Policy clearly outlines a process to handle various categories of grant funding up to a value of \$15,000 and there are many organizations that receive over \$10,000 during this process. Should Council decide to add the Atlantic Wellness Centre to the Relationship

Grants, it is highly likely that other organizations will be requesting the same consideration in future budget years.

### **OPTIONS**

Staff needs clear direction from Council during the budget process on the approach they will take with this request. Regardless of Council's decision, staff would recommend against committing to long term funding for any organization, as funding should be a budget discussion every year. The two options are:

- 1) Accept Atlantic Wellness Centre's request by including them in the category of a "Relationship Grant".
- 2) Deny Atlantic Wellness Centre's request as our current Community Investment Grant Policy is well set up to deal with requests of this sort and it would set a precedent for many other organizations who could make the same argument.

### **RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF**

It is the recommendation of staff that Council refuse the Atlantic Wellness Centre's request to be considered as one of the "Relationship Grants" by being provided with a long term commitment of \$10,000 per annum.