

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE SPORT COMPONENT OF THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT OPERATING GRANT PROGRAM

### RECOMMENDATION

That the May 30, 2022, Community Services report CS00941, be received for information.

#### Report Purpose

##### Information only.

To inform Committee of the Edmonton Sport and Active Recreation Society's (Edmonton Sport Council) decision related to the administration of the sport and recreation component of the Community Investment Operating Grant program.

### Previous Council/Committee Action

At the November 30, 2021, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration will:

- Increase the engagement of the Edmonton Sport Council in the administration of the sport component of the Community Investment Operating Grant program in 2022.
- Transfer the sport component of the CIOG program to the Edmonton Sport Council beginning in 2023.
- Return to Council with an unfunded operating budget request, to increase the Edmonton Sport Council operating budget, as required.

### Executive Summary

- The Community Investment Operating Grant program provides operating assistance to not for profits with the primary mandate to provide programs in amateur sport, recreation and social services to Edmontonians. To align with City priorities, organizations must demonstrate how they currently are or how they are working towards increasing social inclusion and/or equitable access to their programs and services.

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- The Edmonton Sport Council (the legal entity being the “Edmonton Sport and Active Recreation Society”) assisted with the assessment process of the sport and active recreation applications for 2022.
- The Edmonton Sport Council has completed research with sport partners to determine what is the most effective approach for this funding.
- As a result of the research, the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Sport Council has determined that they will continue to have City Administration administer the program assuming continued funding in 2023.
- City Administration, the Community Services Advisory Board and the Edmonton Sport Council will work together for the 2023 program, if funding is approved.

### **REPORT**

The Community Investment Operating Grant program provides operating support to nonprofit organizations whose primary mandate is to offer programs and services in amateur sport, recreation and social services. The Community Services Advisory Board provides oversight to this program.

The Edmonton Sport Council has served Edmonton’s sport and active recreation community since 1998 as a resource and advocate, while also connecting Edmontonians to important information regarding opportunities to adopt active lifestyles through sport and recreation.

In support of The City Plan’s Healthy City goal, the Edmonton Sport Council also co-leads the implementation of Edmonton’s Live Active Strategy. The Live Active principles of Inclusion, Accessibility and Physical Activity as a social benefit all clearly intersect with the reporting outcomes for the Community Investment Operating Grant initiatives.

The Edmonton Sport Council Board considered the option of self-administering the Community Investment Operating Grant Program for amateur sport and recreation groups. After consultation with their membership, the Board has decided to continue with the current process that sees Administration manage the grant.

Administration and the Community Services Advisory Board will work with the Board of the Edmonton Sport Council to engage them in the grant administration process where appropriate and ensure the program is responsive to the needs of the sector, including a funding stream within the grant program for amateur sport and recreation. The Edmonton Sport Council will take a lead role in ensuring Edmonton’s Live Active Strategy is used to help align funding outcomes of the Community Investment Operating Grant to benefit an inclusive and diverse sport and recreation system.

### **Budget/Financial Implications**

In December 2021, Council approved one-time funding of \$3.75 million for the 2022 Community Investment Operating Grant; approximately one half of that funding is allocated to sport/recreation organizations. Previous to 2021, the program had permanent funding but was

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cut as part of ongoing budget reductions. Since then, funding has been provided as a one-time basis.

Should Council wish to fund the Community Investment Operating Grant program in 2023 and beyond, City Administration will submit an unfunded service package for consideration during the 2023-2026 operating budget deliberations.

### **COMMUNITY INSIGHT**

The Community Services Advisory Board currently provides oversight to the Community Investment Operating Grant. As a formula based grant, changes over time have been limited to ensuring desired Council and corporate outcomes are achieved and are in alignment with strategies like the City Plan.

The Edmonton Sport Council has surveyed their members to better understand how the future direction of the Community Investment Operating Grant program could further support their sector and based their decision on that feedback.

### **GBA+**

The requirement to demonstrate how organizations are advancing social inclusion and equitable access identified for 2022 will assist sport, active recreation and social service organizations to distribute opportunities equitably to the community members who would not otherwise have access or do not have the resources to join organized sport and other programming opportunities, such as some BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour), gender diverse, and youth identified as vulnerable members in the community.

At this time many organizations are unaware of the various barriers which impact the most vulnerable individuals and communities, directly preventing participation in organized sports and opportunities. Organizations receiving the grant require additional understanding and knowledge of the communities they serve to ensure equitable opportunities for all the citizens accessing support. Training and knowledge in the areas of anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion would create a greater awareness and understanding for the communities being served.

Through training, organizations will develop a greater foundation for improved practices which will ensure access to all citizens interested in participating in sport and activity. Organizations will be supported by umbrella organizations, to connect with other groups to help create new understanding and opportunities for participation in their programs.