



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Grants to Organizations

Date: January 5th, 2021

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

With the current COVID 19 Pandemic and many uncertainties with the Grants to Organizations Program, we met several challenges that neither the current policy nor the online application system could have anticipated. Many of our events/festivals either cancelled, postponed, or held the event COVID friendly but so much was unknown which led to a more complex and hybrid grant process.

For those events/festivals that were held, we gave out partial payments. One payment in the beginning of the year & the last payment towards the end of 2020. As you are aware in previous, the events/festivals apply before our April deadline & we give out one payment.

Much of the work associated with these decisions was done by Council, as the policy did not authorize staff to take control of the situation. As you are aware, the Grants to Organizations is authorized, analysed and determined by Council.

Our objective is to retain the Council control and authority on the number of grants and to whom they are allocated, but to allow staff flexibility in extraordinary situations such as a Pandemic, to either waive deadlines for certain events, or hold back payments until such time as we know the event will occur. This change is to protect the municipal tax dollar, and provide staff that authority through approved Council policy.

Request for CAO's consideration:

We are asking the CAO to consider and approve a policy amendment, which is attached for your consideration.

CAO notes – The attached policy amendment has been reviewed and approved.

Suggested motion:

None - amendment to the grants to organizations policy is subject to the notice period. Council is asked to debate, alter, or provide official notice on the amendments.