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MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Advisory Committee on the 100th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion
FROM: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, HRM Finance
DATE: December 4, 2017
SUBJECT: **Evaluation of Designated Grant Program**

As committed in a prior report to Regional Council, Grants & Contributions will undertake an evaluation of the designated Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grant Program. Given that the reporting deadline for grant recipients is not until March 31, 2018, it is anticipated that the advisory committee will no longer exist. Hence, the purpose of this email is to invite observations or comments from individual committee members prior to your departure.

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess if in fact a designated program was warranted, efficient, and effective in terms of the intended outcomes. Our experience may be of interest in future years should a similar approach be considered in relation to a civic anniversary or other notable event.

Some of the issues I anticipate looking at include:

- What was the uptake (applications) from groups ineligible for consideration under an established municipal grant program? This was a key rationale for instituting a separate program.
- What was HRM's funding as a percentage of total project funds? Other sources of funding include other levels of government, self-funded, corporate etc.
- What kind of 'legacy' was created by funded projects?
- To what extent might the anniversary prompt continued/renewed interest in preserving and presenting the history of the event?
- The funding categories were derived from the federal War of 1812 commemorative funding program, excluding funds for buildings/sites. In retrospect, the committee's subsequent development of themes ("stories") might have provided a stronger focus on local citizens and encouraged the participation of communities outside HRM.

Given the timing of the committee's retirement, members may send their comments or suggestions individually by email to either Peter Greechan (greechanp@halifax.ca) or myself

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(templep@halifax.ca). It is anticipated that the report will be made available through the HRM Grants Committee agenda.

In closing, our sincere thanks for your participation in the development and delivery of the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grant Program. We wish you every success in your future endeavours.