

HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 5
Halifax Regional Council
May 21, 2019

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Bruce Fisher, Acting CFO/Director of Finance, Asset Management & ICT

Original Signed by 
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Funding Request – The Vimy Foundation

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

An unsolicited request from the Vimy Foundation for a donation to the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park located in France.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter, S.N.S 2008, c.39

Section 79(1) The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for

...

(av) a grant or contribution to

...

(v) any charitable, nursing, medical, athletic, educational, environmental, cultural, community, fraternal, recreational, religious, sporting or social organization within the Province,

...

(vii) a registered Canadian charitable organization.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this information report is to notify Regional Council of correspondence received in January, 2019, requesting the Municipality consider a one-time "legacy gift" in the form of a bench (\$25,000) or tree (\$10,000) to be located within the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, France, which opened in November 2018. Gifts are acknowledged with a dedication on a wall that encircles the park interior.

DISCUSSION

Section 79(1)(av) of the HRM Charter permits grants or contributions to non-profit and charitable organizations located within Nova Scotia. This latitude may be appropriately used in cases where infrastructure, a facility, or an initiative serves communities in close proximity to more than one municipal boundary. Notwithstanding Council's ability to fund discretionary interests outside the region, HRM's established grant programs typically restrict eligibility to non-profit and charitable organizations located within the geographic boundary of HRM.

It is rare for contributions to be made to non-profit or charitable organizations or projects located outside the region, but exceptions have been made pursuant to Section 79(1)(vii) of the HRM Charter. For example, a contribution towards the Vimy Memorial was granted to the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia Nunavet Command (headquartered in Dartmouth) and HRM participated in the Downie Wenjack Legacy Room Project through a contribution to the Tides Canada Foundation (Toronto). A donation to the Fort McMurray fire relief effort was in response to a solicitation by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities directed through the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (headquartered in Halifax) of which HRM is a member.

The Vimy Foundation's request does not comply with the eligibility criteria of the Community Grants Program and although there is discretionary authority under the District Activity/Capital Fund these funds are primarily used to support projects or organizations located within the electoral district boundary. Unless Council directs otherwise, the Foundation will be notified that their request falls outside an established municipal grant program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable. The funding request originates outside an established municipal grant program.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Letter from The Vimy Foundation to Mayor Savage dated January 24, 2019.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, Finance, Asset Management & ICT 902.490.5469



10-060-35
Halifax Regional Municipality
FEB 14 2019
Office of the Mayor

C: CAD

January 24, 2019

Mike Savage, Mayor
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Savage,

As Executive Director of the Vimy Foundation, I want to thank you and your city for hosting special ceremonies and activities last year that commemorated the Centennial of the end of the First World War and the signing of the Armistice. A devastating war, the First World War was also an important moment for Canada. Thanks to our contributions, on and off the battlefield, Canada received a negotiating position at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919 and furthered the case for consideration as an autonomous nation.

In 2006, the Vimy Foundation was formed with the mandate of preserving and promoting Canada's First World War legacy, as symbolized by the victory at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Since then, the Foundation has designed and distributed more than 150,000 unique Vimy pins and medals, created high quality education resources for thousands of teachers and schools across Canada, facilitated, funded annual student 'pilgrimages' to Vimy, and completed the \$10 million Vimy Visitor Education Centre in France, opened in April 2017. Most recently, the Foundation opened the Vimy Centennial Park in a ceremony in November 2018, which was visited by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Minister of Veterans Affairs Seamus O'Regan. Please visit www.vimyfoundation.ca to learn more about what we have accomplished.

The Vimy Foundation Centennial Park features one hundred Vimy Oaks, descendants of acorns collected from the battlefield by Canadian soldier Leslie Miller following the battle at Vimy in 1917 and is located adjacent to the famous Vimy Memorial. The space was designed by Canadian landscape architect Linda Dicaire, and includes pathways, educational signage, view planes of the Vimy monument, a bronze Bugler, commemorative flagpoles, and uniquely designed benches. It is already well visited and provides a space to reflect the battlefield and the monument.

Elements in the park are 90% sold, and include contributions from corporate Canada, local legions, provinces, NGO's, service clubs, cadets, individuals, and a \$350,000 gift from the Province of British Columbia; however, there is still time for the City of [name] to participate.

I am writing to you to request that the City of Halifax consider a First World War Legacy Gift in the form of a Vimy Centennial Bench (\$25,000) to be placed inside the picturesque and reflective setting of the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, or a Vimy Oak tree (\$10,000), which are planted throughout the park. The City could dedicate either element to local veterans and serving army members and acknowledge the contribution of its citizens to the Canadian war effort in the First World War. The dedication would appear on the beautifully designed wall that encircles the park interior.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about how your city could contribute a one-time, unique legacy gift in honour of Halifaxians who served so bravely a century ago.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed

Caitlin Bailey, Executive Director (Interim)
The Vimy Foundation
cbailey@vimyfoundation.ca or 416.595.1917