

REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL



RE: COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FROM: T DRYSDALE, S DARBY RRFDC EDAC

The Town of Fort Frances Strategic Plan sets out that EDAC should investigate the Community Foundation model and make a recommendation to Council on if and how this model for charitable funding would work within the Town of Fort Frances.

What is a Community Foundation?

A Community Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven, charitable organization which partners with donors to build permanent endowments. These funds are then invested back into the community in the form of grants to support community projects. A Community Foundation is governed by a board of directors featuring influential and experienced members with an active interest in the community. An initial community donor is generally also needed to provide the first endowed funds to make grant-making possible.

The first Canadian Community Foundation originated in Winnipeg in 1921, and since that time the Winnipeg Foundation has built to a multi-million dollar organization. However the concept is applicable to smaller communities as well. The Killarney Foundation located in Killarney, Manitoba, hosts assets of \$2.2 million for a population of 2,500. Across the country, these foundations are united by Community Foundations of Canada which provides guidance to ensure success.

What advantages would the creation of a Community Foundation bring to Fort Frances?

A Community Foundation stimulates a mindset of philanthropy and leadership on issues of broad community concern. It is a joint community effort which nurtures relationships within a community, creating a sense of belonging, "social capital," and improved community and individual well-being. A Foundation enables donors to achieve their charitable goals within their home community.

In Fort Frances, a community foundation will provide resident donors the opportunity to give locally in a reliable and secure manner. Local community groups will be able to apply for beneficial grants from the foundation for their activities, operations and to encourage increased membership. A Fort Frances Community Foundation has the potential to touch the lives of residents across the community, whether through involvement in the organization, endowment of funds or participation in recipient community groups.

Previous Recommendation

EDAC reviewed the concept of Community Foundations in the Winter/Spring of 2011/12. As a committee they decided, based on the experience of other communities of a similar size, that they should investigate creating a Foundation for Fort Frances.

The following recommendations were to Council:

That the Town of Fort Frances proceeds with the creation of a Foundation and that the Town:

- Purchase the start up pkg from the Community Foundation Network. **(completed)**
- Appoint an adhoc committee who will become the initial Board of Directors.
- Budget for the cost of registration and legal filings if required.
- Budget for the cost of initial marketing materials.
- Provide administrative and in kind support.
- Make a long term commitment to absorb all accounting and administrative costs for the first five years of the foundations existence.

Council then requested further information on more specific costing to begin and run a foundation.

The following budget is being submitted back to Council to assist with their decision making process. This budget is prepared based on quotes from vendors, discussions with other foundations and information provided by Community Foundations of Canada.

Fort Frances Community Foundation Proposed Operating Budget (\$)

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Legal Fees	1,450		
Incorporation Fees	960		
Promotional Marketing	3,000	10,000	5,000
Website Development*	1,200	440	440
Annual report/newsletters	200	250	300
CFC* Membership	250	250	250
Audit	3,000	3,000	3,000
Insurance	1,900	1,900	1,900
Annual meeting		300	400
Total	11,960	16,140	11,290
<u>In Kind</u>			
Administration/Bookkeeping*	7,800	11,700	11,700
office supplies/postage	1,000	1,000	1,000
telephone/internet	600	650	650
Total	9,400	13,350	13,350

Notes:

*website based of FF Times Webdesign, with graphic design, four static pages and an email address

* CFC stands for Community Foundations of Canada

*Administration/bookkeeping based on one person at \$15/hr for 10 hr/wk year 1, and 15hr/wk year 2

REVISED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

1. Agree in principle with the creating a Foundation.
2. Return the matter to EDAC with the instruction that EDAC should seek out a small leadership group who will determine the community's interest in creating a Foundation and take the steps necessary to facilitate early commitments/interest in a Foundation. This group will then be free to meet, set priorities and independently make requests of Council for in kind and monetary supports.