

**TO: Mayor Avis & Members of Council**  
**FROM: Laurie Witherspoon, Treasurer**  
**DATE: October 7, 2015**  
**SUBJECT: Fort Frances Curling Club Request**

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## **BACKGROUND**

At the September 14, 2015 Council Meeting the letter received from the Fort Frances Curling Club requesting a meeting was referred to the Administration & Finance Executive Committee for recommendation.

As indicated in the letter dated August 17, 2015 from the Fort Frances Curling Club President, Ron Silver, the curling club is experiencing financial difficulties citing downturn in the regional economy. At the September 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the A & F Executive Committee recommendation that the Fort Frances Curling Club Finance Committee Chair, and the Treasurer be invited to the October 6/15 Administration & Finance Executive Committee to discuss the club's tax arrears situation as approved.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Ron Silver, President, Raymond Roy, Finance Chair and Wilfred Belluz, Treasurer attended the A & F Executive Committee Meeting. The Curling Club have made a concerted effort to raise funds by way of conducting membership drives & club promotion, raised prices & dues, and are utilizing volunteers which has decreased costs substantially. Considerations similar to the 2007 payment plan, charity rebate and transfer to Accounts Receivable were discussed as an option to support community recreation.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration and Finance Executive Committee recommend that Council consider entering into an Agreement with the Fort Frances Curling Club as follows:

1. Process the 2015 Charity Rebate (Application to be received),
2. The Fort Frances Curling Club \$5,000.00 payment received on or before October 30, 2015,
3. That a Council Public Relations grant be given in-lieu of the Penalty & Interest related to the outstanding taxes,
4. Enter into a payment schedule Agreement for the remaining outstanding tax amount of \$15,243.51, in a non-interest manner, to be paid in equal payments over 18 months starting repayment on November 30, 2015, and
5. The expectation going forward is that all taxes and all penalty and/or interest incurred will be kept current.

Council Approval of This Report Will Authorize staff to proceed with the necessary steps to enact the agreed provisions with the Fort Frances Curling Club as listed in this report.