

REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

RE: COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FROM: T DRYSDALE 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.

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. EDAC created a sub committee consisting of Gray Rogozinski, Shauna DeGagne, Jim Cummings and Theresa Hazel. The committee met three times and reported back to EDAC twice. The committee after the second meeting decided to request the inclusion of Councillor Tibbs as she had suggested that the Foundation be created.

A major point of discussion has been the geography that the Foundation would cover and if it should be just the Town or also include the District. The recommendation was to create a Fort Frances Foundation and begin within the Town and over time as the Foundation develops expand, if prudent, to a larger geography.

EDAC received advice from the committee created a recommendation to Council is:

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.**
- **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.**

Fort Frances Community Foundation

Community Foundations

Community Foundations exist in many municipalities across Canada. At least 40 exist in Manitoba and over 60 are listed from Ontario on the Canadian Community Foundations website.

The Foundations support community work by attracting charitable investments and making grants to various good works. In most cases these funds operate on expenditures of interest only. In nearly all cases the foundations have a variety of funds that are dispersed based on either donors requested purposes or the foundations priority areas. For example the Foundation may have single bequest that is specified for a particular use such as playground equipment and another pool of money that is generally contributed to that the fund has decided to use to support arts programming.

The Foundations are run by independent Boards of Directors who may or may not be appointed by the municipal governments sponsoring the organization. The Foundations are registered Charities and as such responsible for all the legal filings and reporting's of this type of legal entity.

Fort Frances Foundation

The initial committee discussions regarding a Fort Frances Foundation revolved around the geographic scope of a local Foundation. These discussions lead to a conclusion that the Foundation should be district wide. However, while an ideal situation, when the concept is applied to the practical budgetary limits of the Towns resources the committee rethought this recommendation and have decided to recommend that the Foundation begin smaller within the Town. Over time as the organization is developed it should be encouraged to expand its mandate when requested by other partners in the region.

The Foundation Committee will require the following resources of Council:

- A small budget to cover:
 - the costs of registration and legal filings. (the committee intends to request pro-bono legal assistance)
 - the costs of community foundation start up materials (300)
 - initial marketing material expenses
- Administrative support, meeting rooms and misc materials.
- Either the authority to appoint an adhoc committee who will become the initial Board of Directors or for Council to appoint this committee.
- A long term commitment to absorb all accounting and administrative costs for at least the first 5 years of the Foundation.