



Subject: Application to Canada Community Revitalization Fund

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-200

Meeting Date: July 12, 2021

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-200 be received;

That the Manager of Strategic Initiatives be directed to submit a funding application to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund for a new community multi-purpose facility to be located at the City's waterfront as part of the new cruise ship welcoming area;

That Council support the commitment to fund the City's share of the community multi-purpose facility to be located at the City's waterfront as part of the new cruise ships welcoming area; and

That if the grant is successful the funds be included in the 2022 budget process.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a recently announced federal funding program that includes eligibility criteria that aligns with waterfront redevelopment plans and a new cruise ship welcoming area to be located at the City's former Public Works yard. Furthermore, staff are seeking Council support to submit a funding application to this program.

Background:

On June 23, 2021 the federal Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, Melanie Joly, announced the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF), a national infrastructure program that will provide \$500 million over two years to revitalize communities across Canada. CCRF funding will support two major streams of activity:

- adapt community spaces and assets so that they may be used safely in accordance with local public-health guidelines; and
- build or improve community spaces to encourage Canadians to re-engage in and explore their communities and regions.

Not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and other public institutions, and Indigenous communities can apply for funding for projects that aim to revitalize downtown cores and main streets; reinvent outdoor spaces; create green infrastructure; and increase the accessibility of community spaces. According to program information, examples of projects that could receive funding under this program include:

- farmers markets
- community and cultural centres
- parks or community gardens
- recreational trails and public outdoor sports facilities
- multi-purpose centres

Projects funded under the CCRF could receive a maximum contribution of up to \$750,000 or \$1 million (depending on project location), with funding to cover up to 75% of the total project costs. All contributions will be non-repayable. Applications are due July 23, 2021.

Discussion:

Staff recommend that a funding application be submitted to the CCRF and that Council pass a motion in support of the application as well as confirming that the City will commit to provide its share of project funding. This information will be included with the application.

As per staff report 2021-182, approved by Council on June 28, 2021, the City's former Public Works yard and office building will be demolished this summer as part of the revitalization of the property to support waterfront redevelopment on the west side including a new welcoming area for cruise ships. A vacant building managed by the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation is also expected to be demolished this summer or fall.

A Cruise Ship Project Team, led by the City's Tourism Coordinator and comprised of key staff from various departments, is working on site redevelopment to be ready for the resumption of Great Lakes cruising in 2022. Based on a preliminary schedule, the City is expecting at least fifty (50) cruise ship visits in 2022.

As part of the redevelopment plan, staff recommend the construction of a community multi-purpose facility that could be used all year round as well as serving as the welcoming centre for cruise ship passengers. Other potential uses for the facility include a new location for the City's Farmers' Market, social events, public and private

receptions, and a venue to support City events and waterfront programming including Canal Days.

The proposed multi-purpose facility will complement ongoing waterfront revitalization efforts and investments in H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park and Sugarloaf Marina. This is an investment in the City's waterfront which is a major attraction for residents and visitors.

This project is in the development phase. Staff want to ensure that all project elements for the building and the site, as well as future needs of a year-round multi-purpose facility, are taken into consideration when finalizing cost estimates and design details. Given the tight timelines for the federal application (due July 23rd), staff wanted to get an initial proposal in front of Council for discussion, approval in principle, as well as a commitment to fund the City's share.

Internal Consultations:

The redevelopment of the City's waterfront on the west side, along with the merits of this new community multi-purpose facility, has been reviewed by the Office of the Mayor and CAO, Corporate Services, Engineering, and Economic Development and Tourism Services.

Financial Implications:

Based on preliminary concepts and initial conversations with a landscape architect and designer, project options range from \$1.2 million to \$3 million. Council can expect staff to bring back a more detailed cost estimate and conceptual plan over the summer and scale the project accordingly. While this report does not identify a final financing solution, one option is for the City to debenture \$2 million at three percent (3%) over thirty (30) years. This would result in an annual payment of \$102,000 each year over thirty (30) years and this would be financed from the capital budget.

Conclusion:

The federal government recently announced a new funding program and the deadline for submitting an application is July 23, 2021. The Canada Community Revitalization Fund, a 2-year, \$500 million national infrastructure program includes criteria and types of eligible projects that align with and would help fund a new multi-purpose facility that is part of a multi-year redevelopment plan that staff have been working on for the City's waterfront including the area for welcoming cruise ships. This multi-purpose facility would be for community use and would be available all year round for public and private events, waterfront programming, Canal Days, as well as being a welcoming centre for

cruise ship passengers. This is an opportunity for the City to leverage municipal funding to secure federal funding to support waterfront redevelopment, economic activity, and tourism. Staff are recommending that an application be submitted to the CCRF by July 23rd and are seeking Council support as well as a commitment to fund the City's share of the project. It is staff's intention to come back to Council this summer with a detailed cost estimate and concept plan.

Appendices:

- a. Port Colborne Cruise Terminal and Multi-Purpose Facility - Concept Master Plan and Perspectives

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Long
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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.