



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	December 10, 2020
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Advisory Committee - Budget Expenditure Request (CM20012) (Outstanding Business List Item)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Pauline Kajiura (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2567
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Cyrus Tehrani Chief Digital Officer City Manager's Office
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

At the Audit, Finance and Administration meeting of November 19, 2020, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Advisory Committee presented a Citizen Committee Report -- Budget Expenditure Requests (Added Item 9.4).

The Audit, Finance and Administration directed staff to prepare a report with additional information on Motion 7.3 as follows:

- (a) That a budget allocation of \$500.00 from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee's budget assist spectrum Hamilton in running their online events and weekly online peer support;
- (b) That a budget allocation of \$500.00 from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee's budget assist Kyle's Place in stocking their food pantry;
- (c) That a budget allocation of \$500.00 from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee's budget assist the Sex Workers' Action Program Hamilton (SWAP) in supporting their ongoing drive to compile Harm Reduction Outreach Packages; and,
- (d) That a budget allocation of \$500.00 from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee's budget assist The SPACE Youth Centre in supporting their OQRA and Kaleidoscope programs.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

## **INFORMATION**

Staff reviewed the City of Hamilton's Volunteer Committee Financial Funding Structure, previous expenses of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, and the applicable division the operational work of the committee is embedded within the City structure (City Manager's Office).

Staff concluded that the LGBTQ Advisory Committee expenses as proposed fall within the financial guideline and are consistent with the committee's 2020 approved workplan. Staff's conclusion is based on the following:

1. The Volunteer Committee (VC) Funding Structure Guideline recognizes special event or project initiative costs that are part of the Business Planning/Budget Submissions by the VC. The actual expenditures should not exceed the budgeted allocation for the committee.

Further, the Policy specifically states that "*...it's up to each Department to ensure the applicable Department is ultimately responsible for the expenditures incurred by the VC. As such, any financial policies or guidelines should reflect those of the Department. For example, if a particular group desires to accept donations to assist with their mandate, existing departmental policies and procedures must be adhered to. If a policy does not exist then one should be developed (with assistance from applicable areas such as Legal*". The proposed expenses are consistent with community-driven strategic partnerships targeting capacity building and improving outcomes for equity-seeking community groups.

2. The LGBTQ Advisory Committee's terms of reference state, "*The LGBTQ Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton exists to eliminate barriers experienced by LGBTQ communities by giving voice to the perspectives of LGBTQ individuals and evaluating the City on its related efforts. The Committee does this by making recommendations to Council and staff in order that the City of Hamilton will excel in providing services to and interfacing with members of the LGBTQ communities.*"
3. The proposed expenses also largely fall within the 2020 approved workplan of the committee, which are:
  - Partnership in the development and sharing of community resources and information;
  - Social marketing regarding positive spaces, including materials, focus groups, awareness, etcetera;

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- Partner with community groups for awareness campaigns at significant events in the LGBTQ community;
  - Subsidizing membership participation in workshops/conferences relevant to committee objectives.
4. Staff reviewed previous expenses of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for operational consistency. Findings showed that the committee had provided similar partnership support directly to other community organizations in the past – such as a \$500 support to Pride Hamilton in 2019 for costs associated with supplying filtered water at the Pride event in Gage Park. Staff also worked with Finance Division to review expenditure requests from other Committees of Council and concluded that similar such supports have been provided by other Committees of Council this year and in years past that align to the respective mandates of those committees and are aligned to the Volunteer Committees (VCs) Funding Structure Guidelines
5. The programs named in the proposed budget expenditures are those provided to members of the Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities in Hamilton during the pandemic and have been, verbally, affirmed to use the funds before the end of December 2020. Staff further requested and obtained additional information on these program and events programs, with details below:
- The \$500 partnership support for spectrum Hamilton is to assist with running their online events and weekly online peer support program. Specifically, the event details include:
    - A weekly check-in program to stay connected with youth who attended spectrum’s in-person programming before COVID-19, and to make new connections with 2SLGBTQIA+ youth throughout COVID-19. These include messaging participants once a week, to “check-in” on how they are doing and to provide peer and emotional support, help problem solve any issues, and help connect with other resources in the community.
    - Online programming during COVID-19 also includes two online peer support sessions for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth in Hamilton each week. These have open hours, when spectrum staff are available online to support youth and connect them with resources.
  - The \$500 partnership support for Kyle's Place is to assist with stocking their food pantry. Specifically, the program details include:

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- Responding to the increased need for the food pantry during COVID-19. In keeping with their mandate, this fosters community, support, advocacy and access to resources, particularly for community members who are marginalized due to race, class, age, mental health and abilities. Kyle's Place provides a peer/mutual aid model in a trans and non-binary prioritized space.
- The \$500 partnership support for Sex Workers' Action Program Hamilton (SWAP) is to assist with their ongoing drive to compile Harm Reduction Outreach Packages. Specifically, the program details include
  - Emergency food, housing, transportation, hygiene items and other related needs arising from COVID19
  - The main focus of SWAP Hamilton is to provide outreach support to street-involved workers, those entering or leaving the industry, and including victims of trafficking.
  - Efforts are focussed towards harm reduction and to provide compassionate care. This includes but is not limited to providing supplies for safer sex, Naloxone/Narcan kits for those who may use opioids, direction towards local mental health, housing, childcare, clothing, and food resources, curated occupational health and safety protocols, and personal advocacy.
- Lastly, \$500 partnership support for The SPACE Youth Centre is to assist with their OQRA and Kaleidoscope programs. Specifically, the program details include:
  - OQRA offers a social and informal support group for QTBIPOC. It is a chance to connect with other racialized 2S-LGBTQIA+ folks in a private and empowering community setting where confidentiality is valued.
  - Kaleidoscope is a 2S-LGBTQIA+ youth circle; an intentional space prioritizing community care and centering the voices of youth with multiple marginalized identities through fun activities, healing & learning

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A