



## **CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2024, AT 1:30 PM**

**KALAMALKA LAKE ROOM, CITY HALL**

## **A G E N D A**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

**2) LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*As chair of the City of Vernon's Finance Committee, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.*

**3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**4) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a) September 9, 2024 (attached)

**5) NEW BUSINESS**

a) Council Discretionary Grant Applications

**6) INFORMATION ITEMS**

**7) NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date is to be determined.

**8) ADJOURNMENT**



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MINUTES OF THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 AT 2:00 PM  
KALAMALKA LAKE ROOM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Gares, Chair  
Councillor Mund  
Councillor Fehr

**STAFF:** Elma Hamming, Director, Financial Services  
Rena Crosson, Manager, Financial Operations  
Laura Medcalf, Revenue Supervisor, Financial Services  
Kathy Stogneff, Secretary 1, Corporate Services

**ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *As Councillor of the City of Vernon, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.*

**ADOPTION OF THE  
AGENDA** Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT the agenda of the Finance Committee meeting for Monday, September 9, 2024 be adopted:

**CARRIED.**

**ADOPTION OF THE  
MINUTES** Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Mund:

THAT the minutes for the Finance Committee meeting of Thursday, June 18, 2024 be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PERMISSIVE TAX  
EXEMPTION**

To advise Finance Committee of new applications for permissive tax exemption (PTE), changes to existing recipients of PTE, and emerging issues concerning PTEs, to ensure compliance with Council's PTE

policy in preparation of the 2025-2029 Permission Tax Exemption Bylaw.

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Mund:

THAT the Finance Committee recommends to Council that the permissive tax exemption changes presented, be included in the 2025-2029 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw number 6016, 2024 for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting for the Finance Committee is tentatively scheduled for November 2024.

**ADJOURMENT**

The meeting of the Finance Committee adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Finance Committee **FILE:** 1850-02 (2024)  
**PC:** Elma Hamming, Director, Financial Services **DATE:** November 25, 2024  
**FROM:** Rena Crosson, Manager, Financial Operations  
**SUBJECT: COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY GRANTS – OCTOBER INTAKE**

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During the October intake period for Council Discretionary Grants, there were 30 grant applications totalling \$312,018.20.

The total amount in the 2024 budget is \$100,000, of which \$52,130 has been awarded in April 2024, leaving \$47,870 currently available.

Respectfully submitted:

Discretionary Grants - October 2024 Intake Overview

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount of request	Purpose/Allocation
Habitat for Humanity Okanagan	Computer Upgrade and New Security Fencing for Vernon ReStore	\$ 14,628	<p>Habitat for Humanity Okanagan requires funding for our Habitat ReStore located at 2709 43 Avenue in Vernon, BC. We seek to replace the failing security fence where our outdoor donations drop-off and receiving area is located. The current fence, installed when the store opened in 2019, has sustained significant damage from several past thefts and vandalism. It no longer provides adequate security, leading to more theft of donated items and store products. A more sturdy and secure fence is essential to protect our assets and ensure a safe environment for our shoppers, community members, volunteers, and the ReStore staff. A new, more durable theft-resistant fence system will help deter future theft and vandalism, safeguarding the products and items supporting our affordable housing mission. It will instill confidence in our donors and the community, reassuring them that their contributions are valued and well-protected. Enhancing our security measures will foster a safer environment for everyone involved.</p> <p>We have attained a quote from Accurate Fence &amp; Manufacturing, located in Coldstream. They provided us with a detailed quote that includes the supply and installation of 118' chain link fencing along the donation drop-off/receiving area. This will also entail supplying and installing a 2 x 16 double swing gate with a defined heavy commercial spec 8' All galvanized with six gauge mesh/SS40 framing and the removal/disposal of the damaged compromised fence.</p> <p>We also seek to upgrade our office computer within the ReStore. Given its age, our current computer has become increasingly inadequate as technology evolves. It was purchased in 2017; it no longer supports newer software and applications and cannot be upgraded with a new operating system. Investing in current technology is essential for the continued success of our organization. We have attained a quote for a new computer, including all taxes, costing \$1450.40. Our IT provider will supply this.</p>
Sky Volleyball Club	New Equipment. To enhance training quality, expand program reach, and improve community engagement.	\$ 11,265	<p>The grant funding will be allocated towards the purchase of new equipment for Sky Volleyball Club. The list is in order of priority needs, with the highest priority purchases at the top. The specific items include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mikasa VQ2000+ Volleyballs (12 units): \$1,080</li> <li>2. Mikasa V200W Volleyballs (12 units): \$1,500</li> <li>3. Park &amp; Sun Sports adjustable setting target (1 unit): \$375</li> <li>4. Volleyball spike trainer (3 units): \$495</li> <li>5. Plyometric boxes (4 units): \$1,000</li> <li>6. Replacement nets (2 units): \$1,000</li> <li>7. Chairs for spectator seating (20 units): \$1,200</li> <li>8. Damp2Dry 250 Commercial Dehumidifier: \$3,400</li> <li>9. iPad for training and administrative purposes: \$679</li> </ol> <p>Subtotal: \$10,729 GST: \$536.45 Total: \$11,265.45</p> <p>This equipment will allow us to replace worn-out items, enhance the quality of training, and provide better facilities for participants, ultimately improving the overall experience for athletes and spectators alike.</p>
North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society	Young Parents & Supervised Access Program Meeting Space Transformation	\$ 10,000	<p>The goal of this project is to update and transform the NOYFSS downstairs area into a welcoming, trauma informed, sensory friendly, inclusive meeting space. This area will be dedicated to our Young Parents Programs and Supervised Access Programs.</p> <p>The current space being utilized for these (and other) programs is out of date. The space is utilized daily for Young Parents to connect, for Supervised Access visits, Parent Coaching and more. Many of the children coming into this space are under the age of 5 years old. Upgrades to this space will allow us to provide a safe environment that can meet the physical and emotional needs of all children, youth and families. Providing a welcoming and well equip space that can be adapted to the needs of each individual child and family, as well as provide a group setting for multiple children, youth and families to be in the space at one time. The room will be furnished to create an area that feels like a home, with sensory friendly, inclusive, educational and trauma informed toys and resources for all ages and abilities.</p>

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount of request	Purpose/Allocation
Vernon Ski Club	Regular Program Funding	\$ 4,250	The funds will be used to rent space for dryland and off-snow training as well as the cost to rent space for the Annual Community Vernon Ski Swap. Our Fast & Fit program has two primary goals - develop the 'team' culture early and develop the fundamentals of athleticism. The program aligns with the 'Learn to Train' phase of long term athletic development (see <a href="https://tad.alpinecanada.org/stages/learn-to-train">https://tad.alpinecanada.org/stages/learn-to-train</a> ). Broadly speaking, the program is targeted at 8-12 year olds though we may accept younger or older kids if it is deemed appropriate. The main goals of the program are: Have fun, play games, connect with your team mates and coaches. Increase awareness of how the body works and how to train. Develop physical literacy - agility, balance, coordination, basic speed, basic strength - through games and fun drills. Develop flexibility. Develop fundamental skills of throwing, kicking, running, hopping, balancing etc.
North Okanagan Hotel Association	Sustainability in Vernon Hotels	\$ 2,000	Purpose: The grant will fund the implementation of energy efficiency measures recommended in the BOMA BC Energy Audit for Quality Inn and other NOHA members. These recommendations aim to reduce energy consumption, operational costs, and carbon footprints. Allocation: * \$1,000: Implementation of recommended upgrades from the audit, such as energy-efficient lighting and HVAC improvements. * \$500: Workshops for hoteliers to share audit insights and best practices. * \$500: Educational materials and consulting services to assist other hotels in applying similar recommendations.
O'Keefe Ranch & Interior Heritage Society	Student Education, Historical Archives, Interpretation and Curatorial Program Maintenance	\$ 25,000	Four staff members and a large volunteer group run this programming. In addition to the expense of wages, salaries, and volunteer appreciation events, materials and supplies for repair maintenance, cleaning and program preparation are required. Consumable and re-usable materials and supplies for educational and hands-on activities for school students and camp participants. Materials and service needed to clean and repair heritage wardrobe pieces, antiques, and artifacts.  1. Education Coordinator (Full-time, seasonal position in May, June and September) Coordinates program bookings from schools Delivers educational programming to as many as 1,000 students per year (May, June, September) Conducts research and professional development to ensure best quality program delivery and content 2. Education Program Assistant (Part-time, seasonal position in May, June and September) Assists in delivering educational programming, morning preparation / set-up and clean-up 3. Curator (full-time during the high season, part-time during the low season) Oversees care, handling, environment of the artifact collection (for the benefit of the artifacts and assists with community members who would like to access the archives or view specific pieces from our collection) Provides research opportunities for authors; in 2019, Sherri Field released her book, Cornelius O'Keefe: The Life, Loves, and Legacy of an Okanagan Rancher. Research for which was completed using the archival documents at O'Keefe Ranch. Interpretative programming museum exhibition design; logistical planning; installation; site signage, narrative; site displays Undergoes professional development on a regular basis. 4. Archives Assistant (full-time during the high season) Reporting to: Museum Curator Works in the care, development, documentation, study and administration of the collections at Historic O'Keefe Ranch and its heritage village of the late 1800s and early 1900s Victorian and Edwardian era.

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount of request	Purpose/Allocation
North Okanagan Child Care Society	Installation of Accessible Ramps for inclusive access to our facility!	\$ 25,000	Our objective is to upgrade 2 of our entry ways with accessible ramps to offer an inclusive environment for all our current and future children, caregivers and community members. In line with our strategic plan, we have been dedicated to creating an environment that is fully accessible and inclusive for all children, families, staff and community members. Our building assessment identified our need to prioritize improving our barriers to accessibility and safety for persons with disabilities and/or movement challenges to bring the facility up to date. We have installed a fully accessible playground, upgraded to automatic doors with accessible buttons, added accessible parking stalls and washrooms, and upgraded our fire alarm system with flashing lights for visual cues. This project will see the addition of 2 wheelchair ramps from separate exits which will then provide safe access for persons of all abilities between our facility, the accessible playgrounds, and fire evacuation routes which currently have stair access only. The ramps will also provide quick and easy access for the strollers that our 60 Infant toddlers use to come and go from our centre on community walks and evacuation procedures. The funds will be utilized entirely to build the 2 separate outdoor ramps leading up to each access door.
Athletics for Kids	Sport4Life Vernon Grant Program	\$ 6,500	<p>According to the 2023 BC Child Poverty Report Card, one in seven children were living in poverty in 2021. This upward trend is predicted to continue. Therefore, this demonstrates that the need for funding is higher than ever since many families cannot afford sports programs for their children on top of basic necessities. This leaves parents forced to say a heartbreaking "no" to their kid's sporting dreams. Research shows that physical activity not only improves children's physical health but also works to keep the mind healthy. Participation in sports is one of the key ways we can help children achieve a healthy lifestyle. Athletics4Kids helps make this possible by covering up to 100% of base registration fees, empowering families to enroll their children in sporting activities that can make long-lasting differences in their lives. We work with children who are refugees, new immigrants, foster kids, kids with developmental needs, aboriginal kids, and more.</p> <p>The funds received will go directly to our Sport4Life Vernon Grant Program. This will directly affect 15 children in Vernon, and allow them to reap the benefits of sport. Deserving families will be able to provide their children with a healthy outlet, helping them reach their potential. Athletics4Kids believes in the transformative power of sports for children, impacting them socially, emotionally, and physically. Participation in amateur sports promotes a healthy lifestyle for children by supporting weight management, improving cardiovascular fitness, increasing bone strength, and enhancing overall physical literacy. By learning new skills alongside their peers, children naturally boost their self-esteem. Sports also offer a great way for kids to break out of isolation, fostering social connections with others. Additionally, the body's chemical response to physical activity has been shown to reduce anxiety and stress.</p>
Together for Christmas Society	Regular Program Funding	\$ 1,000	The grant will be to cover the cost of the rental of Schubert Center (\$500) and rental of kitchen space at Trinity United Church for the baking bee and vegetable peeling which happen before Dec, 25, (\$350) as well as helping to offset the insurance costs for the event. Last year's insurance was 350.00 and we anticipate a higher cost this year as we are renting in two locations.

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount of request	Purpose/Allocation
Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation	Land-based learning for Take a Hike Vernon program	\$ 5,000	<p>Funding of \$5,000 from the City of Vernon will support Take a Hike's Vernon program and provide up to 20 vulnerable youth with vital mental health and land-based learning resources. Funding will go towards land-based learning supplies and outdoor gear and equipment that youth will use during their weekly out-days and multi-day wilderness trips, transportation, and park entrance fees, and camping permits. Land-based learning support youth in their mental well-being, relationship-building, and academic learning, as well as provides them with opportunities develop communication, leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and wilderness skills. Funding will ensure that youth have access to the phenomenal outdoor landscape that the BC Interior region offers. Some examples of activities for youth include: mushroom foraging at Sleepy Hollow Gardens; hiking at Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park and BX Creek Trail; camping at Mable Lake Provincial Park; and biking at the Okanagan Rail Trail. Being outdoors allows staff and youth to interact through shared experience, which builds healthy and secure attachment and supports mental health and counselling work with youth. Spending time in nature takes youth away from daily stressors and distractions, as well as helps them to self-regulate and engage in self-reflection. Cross-curricular academics covering sciences, math, and other subjects are also incorporated into outdoor land-based learning activities, allowing youth to learn hands-on and with real-life applications.</p>
North Okanagan Optimist Club	New Program Funding - Children's Christmas Gift House	\$ 2,000	<p>This year the Optimist Club has agreed to host the Children's Christmas Gift House which takes place in December at the People Place downstairs. The event was previously organized by the People Place, but they no longer have the staff or the funding to do this. The Gift House is a one day store for underprivileged children who are unable to purchase gifts for their parents. The store is filled with donations from the community, either in goods or some funding. The Club advertises for donations - we have 4 donation boxes at various locations around town -the donations are sorted (not all are appropriate or in suitable condition) and then divided into categories (mom, dad, grandparents) and distributed among the tables that have been set up by volunteers. The children can select gifts for the adults in their family; volunteers guide them around; other volunteers gift wrap their selections and have them write their family member's name on a card. If they have any money, the children donate \$1 or \$2; otherwise it is entirely free for the children, teaches them the value of giving and exposes them to the value of volunteering. In many cases the selection is plenty for mom, but not enough for Dad, so the Club will purchase anything missing, particularly for dad or grandfather. In addition, gift baskets that the children can take home are prepared for the entire family. Parents stay in a separate room from the Gift House so that they cannot see what the children select. Last year the Gift House put smiles on approximately 120 children's faces. The Club works with SD#22 and service agencies to identify children for event. With the rising cost of living, it is expected that the number of children this year with surpass last years. Funding is required to purchase a number of appropriate gifts, to be able to put a Gift Card in each basket, to purchase baskets, wrapping paper, bows, do some advertising, and provide beverages and cookies for parents and volunteers.</p>



Organization Name	Project Name	Amount of request	Purpose/Allocation
Sovereign Lake Nordic Club	Funding for Environmental Assessment - Lodge Legacy Project	\$ 6,825	<p>The purpose of the grant is to secure partial funding to support an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the planned upgrade to the day lodge at the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre. The day lodge is located in Silver Star Provincial Park, and an EIA is required for all works in BC Provincial Parks. The current day lodge is 35 years old and needs to be expanded and upgraded to meet the needs of the 40,000+ annual user-days at Sovereign Lake. The upgrades include larger rental space, more washrooms, greatly improved accessibility for people living with disabilities, and features that will reduce the environmental footprint of the operations (i.e., better insulation and windows). Only renewable energy sources will be used. A larger and upgraded day lodge will also help SLNC to continue to attract major ski &amp; biathlon races to Greater Vernon. These events bring out-of-region visitors 3 or 4 times each year, with up to about 1200 visitors staying for 4-7 days.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment is the focus of this application. The EIA will be completed by a qualified local consultant under the direction of SLNC's Board and with input from BC Parks. The goal is to identify potential environmental effects from construction and operation of the day lodge and to identify measures to avoid or minimize any adverse environmental effects. Potential effects to be considered include water quality, wildlife &amp; wildlife habitat, air quality, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The EIA will also inform the design and provide direction on the overall sustainability of the project (including construction waste minimization, waste management, energy efficiency, water conservation, etc.) The total cost of the EIA is estimated at \$13,650 (plus GST). SLNC is requesting 50% of this cost from the City of Vernon Discretionary Grant, \$6,825. The remainder will be covered from the reserves set aside by the club for the Lodge Legacy Project or from other grant sources (see above).</p>
Vernon Upper Room Mission Society	Laundry Machines Purchase	\$ 7,000	<p>We are seeking the City of Vernon's support to purchase two new commercial-grade washers and dryers for the Upper Room Mission's permanent shelter floor.</p> <p>Our goal is to transition our Temporary Winter Shelter to the second floor, creating a permanent space for guests to sleep. With this renovation, we need dedicated laundry facilities to manage bedding and linens used by our guests. We are asking for assistance to acquire two washers and dryers for the new shelter area, which will be essential in maintaining a clean, safe environment for those staying with us.</p> <p>The cost of this purchase is \$7000.00</p>
Mackie Lake House Foundation	2025 Interpretive Program Funding	\$ 3,000	<p>2025 Interpretive Program - this is a two-part program that includes funding for a temporary exhibition on the Second World War (coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the end of the war in 1945) that will be designed and mounted-in house as well as for updated signage in several Mackie Lake House out-buildings that were staged and opened for the public for the first time in 2024, and for which we have received a great visitor response. This includes: 1910s era veranda, our root cellar, 1890s barn, carriage shed, and Fylton Forest (an outdoor trail and the site of the original orchard).</p> <p>As mentioned, we have already received in-kind support from local businesses to fund part of the exhibition, as well for some of the site signage. We would use this discretionary grant to fund signs and display furniture (cases and mounts) for the WW2 exhibition, as well as for the printing and mounting of signs for the spaces listed above.</p> <p>All curatorial work and graphic design will be completed in-house at Mackie and will be provided as an in-kind contribution from our organization (approx. \$1958)</p>
Vernon Lawn Bowling Club	New Equipment Purchase	\$ 2,000	<p>The purpose of this grant would be to replace an aging water heater with a new Electric water heater. It would include purchasing the water heater and installation.</p>

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount of request	Purpose/Allocation
Vernon Pickleball Association	Sound System	\$ 8,500	The purchase of a sound system within the complex will enable us to have clear communications. The acoustics within the complex are not complementary with what is being utilized at this time. The ability to project announcements, information, etc throughout the complex with clearness is important for time sensitive notifications to players and participants. To ensure we can continue to host national level competitions, we need to offer high quality equipment within our complex.
Archway Society for Domestic Peace	Replacement of video recording equipment for forensic interviews for child abuse investigations	\$ 10,000	<p>Oak Child and Youth Advocacy Centre is in desperate need of new recording and sound equipment for forensic interviews conducted by RCMP during child abuse investigations. Video-recorded evidence is used to capture the child's original account of events, when details are most vivid. The recorded statements are entered as evidence into court as the child's testimony so that they do not have to repeat their experience in the courtroom in front of their alleged abuser. The recording equipment is crucial to ensuring a trauma-informed approach with child victims.</p> <p>Our recording equipment is almost 10 years old, and was installed when we opened in 2015. The current equipment reached end-of-life in June 2024, as deemed by the manufacturer. It needs to be replaced before it fails and compromises recorded police evidence. The new equipment will ensure we obtain high-quality recordings that can be played in court and spare the child from giving live testimony.</p>

# Discretionary Grants - October 2024 Intake Detailed Summary

Organization Name	History	Type of Request	Amount of request	Grant purpose	Purpose/Allocation	Additional grants	Coordinator Comments	Manager Comments	Tax Exemption	Approved 2023 Grant	Grant Qualification Checklist
Vernon OAK Learning Society	Incorporated April 29, 2024. We are 5 Directors who have / are:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Negotiating with a local business owner to secure a location for our school</li> <li>* Weekly Directors meetings to further establish our cause</li> <li>* Created a website</li> <li>* Created crowdfunding pages</li> <li>* Communications with Young Agrarians and other land owners for a Nature Campus to teach children about agriculture</li> <li>* Conducted phone interviews with media</li> <li>* Connected with other independent schools both in our community as well as out of province</li> <li>* Submitted our Expression of Interest to the Ministry of Education for September 2025 startup</li> <li>* Have contacted a Educational Consultant to hire when ready to move to the next phase</li> <li>* Established an educational advisors committee</li> <li>* Approached local land and business owners for donations and awareness</li> <li>* Recruited a local individual who is looking for grants on our behalf</li> <li>* Established a sub-committee for fundraising and currently creating fundraising events</li> </ul>	Project Funding	\$ 15,000	New Independent School & Daycare	To fund the cost of an Educational Consultant through the Federation of Independent School Associations in British Columbia (FISABC) to help us through the application process with the Ministry of Education for starting an independent school.	We have submitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A request for funding from KaItire</li> <li>* A request for funding from Sparkling Hills</li> <li>* Contacted the owner of Frind Winery for funding</li> <li>* A grant application withToko</li> </ul>	School does not exist yet, no physical location determined. Looking at their website they hope to open Sept 2025, but need to be approved by Ministry which they expect to hear from around March 2025.	This is a new organization, so no financial statement package is available. They have not yet developed a budget, which is what we request from new organizations without a financial package.			Community Based:Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or:Must only submit one application per calendar year:Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
Okanagan Screen Arts Society	The society operates the historic Vernon Towne Theatre, which has been in operation since 1929 as an economic anchor to the downtown core. Additionally, the society hosts regular arts evenings involving live music, film screenings, and artist talks. The mandate of the society is to provide a welcoming gathering place for the community to enjoy arts and culture. This includes a focus on underserved communities, and diverse artistic voices. The 2023/2024 year included a significant investment in live event infrastructure and a renovation of the auditorium to support larger live music events. The theatre was recognized as the Top Independent Theatre in Canada (Independent Spotlight Award) for 2023 by a panel of industry experts and peers. The award honours a theatre demonstrating commitment to innovation, creativity, original programming and community involvement.	Project Funding	\$ 1,500	Improved City Water Service to Towne Theatre	This request is largely for in kind services from the city of Vernon to increase the size of the water service to the theatre up to the water meter. The society would bear the bulk of the cost of redoing the piping from the building side and purchasing commercial toilet fixtures.	The society has historically applied for and received grants from BC Arts Council, Community Gaming, and Telefilm. For this specific project, the bulk of the cost would be borne from existing society funds.	Submitted an application April 2024 which was denied				Community Based:Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or:Must only submit one application per calendar year:Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
Vernon Elks	The Vernon Elks #45 was established in 1920 and has played an active role in the community since that time. Vernon Elks Lodge #45 is a local community volunteer organization with members working as volunteers to serve the needs of the Vernon and its residents. As volunteers working in our unique and very popular hall, we raise money to support many varied community organizations and we help in the community in any way we can. We have sustained a vital and enthusiastic presence in the community, with a volunteer force that volunteered over 6,700 recorded hours in 2023. We have created a welcoming and inclusive central location for a wide variety of local fundraising, cultural and community building events. Our goal is to maintain this vital community hub, and to continue to serve the needs of Vernon residents.	Project Funding	\$ 20,000	New Equipment Purchase	Grant will be used to purchase a new commercial glass washer for our upstairs lounge which is regularly rented out and used for social events	July 2024 the Vernon Elks received a \$1,400.00 Sustainability Grant from the city of Vernon. We were advised by a City of Vernon Finance Department employee that it would be permissible to apply for this additional grant this year.  We have recently also applied for a Provincial BC Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism grant, to assist with expenses in support of our multicultural events, which are held regularly at the Elks hall	No Balance Sheet provided. Only Revenue, Expenses and Budget information	100% on Class 8 - 2024 amount was \$5,427			Community Based:Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or:Must only submit one application per calendar year:Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
Vernon & District Métis Association	The Vernon & District Métis Association (VDMA) has made significant strides in supporting and enriching the lives of Métis community members through various initiatives over the past two years. The VDMA has transformed an older office space into a new Cultural Centre. Which includes a small library, a boardroom, and space for hosting various functions/events up to 60 people. We have all the modern amenities to support today's digital technologies. The VDMA organized a week-long event where participants aged 1 to 84 learned traditional Métis dances. Participants showcased their learning in a presentation dressed in formal Métis attire. The Women's group engages in traditional bonding on materials such as felt, velvet, and leather using glass seed beads. The most popular and most recognizable item is the traditional 5-sided flower, which symbolizes the Métis people. Workshops on ribbon skirt making, moccasin making, canning, tobacco/medicine bag making, and beaded brooch creation have also been held. The VDMA has provided over \$46,000 in food security aid to local Métis families, individuals and seniors in need. Last Christmas season, we distributed 72 turkey dinners, complete with local potatoes and carrots, to our Métis members. The VDMA hosts gatherings to commemorate Family Day, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Louis Riel Day, and Orange Shirt Day. Last years, we supplied 35 children, (K-gr. 12), with back-to-school supplies, fees and Chromebooks. This year we supplied 57 students with \$40.00 gift cards for back-to-school supplies. Awarded \$7,000 in educational grants to seven grade 12 students pursuing to further their education in university or college. Hosted a Métis 101 course, covering the Métis history, culture, rights, and genealogy. Youth representative hosts various activities for Métis children. Monthly luncheons and game sessions are held for seniors, providing social interaction and community engagement.	Project Funding	\$ 20,000	Bringing awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.	The purpose of this grant is to support the Vernon & District Métis Association (VDMA) in hosting a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Day event on May 2 and 3, 2025. This two-day gathering will be dedicated to raising awareness about the systemic violence and the challenges Indigenous women and two-spirit individuals face. The event will feature knowledgeable speakers from a wide range of occupations and backgrounds, while each speaker addresses critical issues, including but not limited to gender-based violence, domestic violence, community safety, mental health and addictions among Indigenous people, and suicide prevention. On Sunday May 4 we will be hosting a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's walk from the Prestige Hotel to City Hall to bring community support and awareness. Through securing this grant, the VDMA can make this event accessible to the community at no cost to attendees, by removing financial barriers that might prevent attendees from participating. The proposed allocation of some of this grant money would be used to secure the venue, marketing, brochures and pamphlets.	Step that the Vernon & District Métis Association have taken to acquire grants from other funding sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have consistently applied for grants over the past two years, although the success has been limited, with only one successful grant awarded for the Women's Group.</li> <li>- Currently, all grant writing is done in-house by the Office Administrator.</li> <li>- Despite the challenges in securing grants, the VDMA has continued to seek funding from multiple sources, demonstrating perseverance in pursuing future financial opportunities.</li> </ul> These efforts reflect our commitment to securing financial support for our programs, despite the difficulties faced in obtaining grants from other sources.				Community Based:Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or:Must only submit one application per calendar year:Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Canadian Mental Health Association Vernon & District	Canadian Mental Health Association Vernon & District (CMHA Vernon), has been in Vernon since 1959 and since that time, we have been providing supports to assist people with mental health issues to develop the tools to lead meaningful, productive lives. We facilitate access to the resources people require to improve mental health and community integration, build resilience and support recovery from mental illness. Some of our accomplishments over the years include: In 2017, CMHA Vernon led a collaborative partnership to host the Community Forum on Youth and Addictions for parents and youth designed to collect feedback and ideas from people who may find our current services inaccessible or not meeting their needs. Based on that forum, we worked with partners, parents and youth to conduct a series of dialogues in surrounding rural communities. In 2019, partnering organizations successfully piloted a series of school-based youth mental health education sessions, using evidence-based programming to address mental health and wellness, suicide prevention, anxiety, depression and bullying. CMHA Vernon is a partner agency in the Interior Crisis Line Network, a unique multi-site 24/7 crisis line service offered with 4 other service providers in the Interior BC region. In 2023, CMHA Vernon became a partner agency with the 9-8-8 National Crisis Line. In 2023, the Youth Integrated Services Hub opened on 30th Avenue to provide youth and families with access to programs and services they need as they navigate mental health. In 2024, we were named Non-Profit of the Year by the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce. In 2024, we protected 26 units of affordable housing through the acquisition of Sunrise Gardens. Support came from the Province of B.C. and the Rental Protection Fund. In 2024, we hired B.C.'s first independent rights advisor to provide a voice to those who are involuntarily detained under the Mental Health Act.	Program Funding	\$ 8,000	Nutrition Program	For many of our participants - youth and adults - navigating mental health is a daily challenge, and this has become even more daunting as the cost of food has escalated. Many of our adult participants have extremely fixed incomes and putting nutritious food on the table often takes a backseat to paying rent or utilities. Fresh fruit and vegetables can often be considered a luxury. For our youth participants, they rely on school-provided food programs during school hours. But outside of these times, it becomes difficult to ensure that youth are getting meals. Through the kitchen at CMHA's main office, adult participants can access nutritious meals four days a week, and many of them assist with the preparation. At the Youth Integrated Services Hub, youth can access food while they are participating in programs and activities, and they can also take food home. Like many organizations, CMHA Vernon has been impacted by inflation and the cost of providing meals has increased significantly in the last few years. Support from the City of Vernon Council Discretionary Grant would provide some financial stability to the program so CMHA Vernon can focus on meeting the needs of participants.	We have a long-standing commitment to a process that emphasizes funding and identifies the resources needed to continue our work in the future. We are currently working with other funding organizations who are interested in supporting our work, and we receive donations through the generosity of individuals, service organizations and businesses in the North Okanagan. We also host a number of special events over the course of a year that financially benefit specific initiatives.		They receive 100% on Class 6, 2024 amount was \$24,798.			Community Based:Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or:Must only submit one application per calendar year:Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
British Columbia Honey Producers' Association	The British Columbia Honey Producers' Association (BCHPA) is a non-profit organization that has been serving the beekeeping industry of British Columbia since 1920. The association's main goal is to help improve the beekeeping industry through education and to serve as the industry's voice. The BCHPA's achievements include representing a diverse community of 750 beekeepers at provincial and national levels, promoting education throughout the province through 28 clubs and branches (including the North Okanagan Branch), supporting applied research on bee health, supporting initiatives to protect the honey market in BC and Canada, promoting public awareness of the role of beekeeping in agricultural services (i.e., pollination services), and partnering with stakeholders in other agribusinesses to encourage local food production (e.g., bee-pollinated crops, like blueberries, cherries, and canola hybrid seeds). In recent years, the beekeeping industry has faced challenges such as extreme honey bee colony mortality, highly virulent pathogens, and a lack of stock to cover pollination services in BC (e.g., blueberries). As a response, the BCHPA formed the BC Technology Transfer Program (BC-TTP) in November 2021. The BC-TTP mandate includes assisting the beekeeping industry with a systematic approach to support its sustainable and inclusive growth. The North Okanagan region is home to many of our beekeepers, which is why we are holding Education Days in Vernon this year to support our expanding community there. Many farmers and beekeepers face challenges, which encouraged the association to assist our community in the region and try to find solutions through networking, education, and knowledge and technology transfer.	Program Funding	\$ 8,000	BC Honey Producers' Association AGM, Education Days being held in Vernon on Oct 25-27, 2024	The purpose of the grant is to help cover the following costs: Venue rental: \$4,000 AV equipment: \$3,500 Travel costs of presenters: \$3,000 Accommodation for out-of-town speakers: \$3200 Lunches for volunteers: \$400 Total: \$14,100	The BCHPA has contacted industry trades and secured \$10,000 in sponsorships. In addition to that, members pay a fee to attend the event. We have also applied for BC Knowledge Transfer Grants but were unsuccessful due to Provincial Government cutbacks. However, due to the current high costs to organize these events (for example, travel costs and venue), we request additional support to deliver the education days to our beekeeping community effectively. Any residual money from the event goes into continued education and future events.	Organization is not a resident of Vernon. They are hosting education days, but the dates are after the financial intake period closes, so the funding will be retroactive.				Community Based:Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or:Must only submit one application per calendar year:Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit

Organization Name	History	Type of Request	Amount of request	Grant purpose	Purpose/Allocation	Additional grants	Coordinator Comments	Manager Comments	Tax Exemption	Approved 2023 Grant	Grant Qualification Checklist
Army Navy and Air Force Veterans Association Unit 5 Society	ANAF Veterans Unit 5 is a unity established by a warrant of constitution issued by the Dominion Command under the authority of a Special Act of Parliament. Membership includes former military, police, and emergency services, affiliated members or any interested person from the community.	Project Funding	\$ 40,000	Leasehold Improvement: New Flooring for Hall	Funds will be used to pay for the new flooring.	We have not applied for other grants.		Review engagement on financial statements was provided. Policy requires audited financial statements if ask is greater than \$25,000	100% on Class 8. Class 6 is taxable. 2024 Exemption was \$4,575		Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
North Okanagan Sailing Association	NOSA was originally set up as a sailing club for members to meet, socialize and use as a home base on Lake Okanagan to launch boats. Due to requests from the community, we eventually started providing sailing and water safety classes to adults and youth who were not members of the sailing club. From our humble beginnings in 1988, NOSA has grown into a facility that trains between 300 and 400 youth and adults per season. Many former students have gone on to own their own boats and become members of NOSA and/or the Vernon Yacht Club. Today, providing lessons to youth and adults accounts for the majority of NOSA operations and income, but NOSA still provides an outlet for members to be part of a sailing club at a low cost in order to encourage community participation.	Program Funding	\$ 10,000	Program fund	Grant funding will be used to help NOSA offset certain operating expenses which are increasing and also to perform maintenance on the instructor coach boats, sailboats and associated equipment. Some of the operating and maintenance expenses that grant funding would help to offset are as follows: 1) Insurance: \$9,237. This includes insurance for the equipment but is predominately liability insurance during sailing school classes. 2) Instructor and student boat maintenance and repairs: \$4,890. Instructors use motorboats as coach and rescue craft to be able to instruct multiple student sailboats while they are on the water. In order to ensure the rescue boats are safe and reliable, we ensure annual maintenance is performed on them and they have appropriate safety equipment on board. Due to the large number of young students that we train, sailboats can sometimes receive damage due to collisions between student boats, which requires repair and sometimes replacement of sailboat components. 3) Compound maintenance: \$6,420. In order to keep the NOSA compound operational and attractive to students, members, and groups who rent the adjacent Paddle Wheel hall, we ensure irrigation systems are operating as designed and yard maintenance is kept up.  Although the BC Gaming grant we receive (\$17,500) helps defray some of our operating expenses, as costs of operations have continued to rise we have been vigilant in looking for ways to maintain current sailing school fees and membership fees so that we can encourage community participation and ensure the sailing program is accessible for a large number of Vernon residents. The City of Vernon grant funding will be utilized to help defray some of these costs from the expense items listed above in order to help maintain low fees for sailing school classes.	Each year NOSA applies for the BC Gaming grant. Funds received from BC Gaming help provide support to offset NOSA's cost of operations and repairs to sailing equipment. Gaming grant funding allows NOSA to keep membership and sailing school fees low in order to encourage community participation with the goal of making sailing accessible for all in the community. In the past, NOSA has submitted application for the Federal Government Summer Jobs program to help offset the cost of sailing school instructor wages, but we have been unable to access this funding in recent years.					Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
North Okanagan Friendship Center/Pregnancy Outreach Program	The North Okanagan Friendship Center is situated in the beautiful North Okanagan Valley, the territory of the Okanagan Nation (Sylix people). The North Okanagan Friendship Center Society (NOFCS) has been in existence for 38 years since its inception in 1977 as the United Native Nations Friendship Society. NOFCS has grown from humble beginnings into a recognized and credible organization in the effective delivery of a range of social services for urban Aboriginal people. We endeavor to assist whoever walks in the door needing help. The Center is a place where people can meet for social, recreational, cultural and education activities. There are diverse programs that offer support and many opportunities for prevention, counselling, prenatal care, early childhood development, youth and elder programs, housing for young people (19 – 30 years), and employment and training programs. We continue to advocate and embrace our right Aboriginal heritage through our various cultural events and activities and in particular our season events throughout the year. NOFCS continues to support the overall Friendship Center Movement, within British Columbia and Canada, which is built upon community support, trust, strong leadership, tradition and faith. The Friendship Center Movement is mandated to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people through Canada. The BC Aboriginal Association of Friendship Centers is the umbrella association for the 25 Friendship Centers in British Columbia.	Program Funding	\$ 22,550	Regular Program Funding to support food security and food sovereignty for pregnant and new families	Through providing food hampers, grocery cards, free prenatal vitamins, and vitamin D for infants, the Pregnancy Outreach program support families with their emergency food needs. With the increase of the cost of living, many families are facing increasing demands on their financial resources. Families accessing the pregnancy outreach program have, after paying the rent, little money left over for buying food. Food insecurity has become a constant, and even families that were doing okay before the pandemic, are now struggling to survive. Access to affordable, fresh produce like fruit and vegetables is a challenge for most program participants. Eating a nutritious diet during pregnancy is linked to good brain development and a healthy birth weight, and can reduce the risk of many birth defects. A balanced diet will also reduce the risks of anemia, as well as other unpleasant pregnancy symptoms such as fatigue and morning sickness and can reduce the risk of many birth defects. Eating plenty of nutritious foods can protect baby's health while she grows in the womb, but it has lifelong implications as well. Eating plenty of nutrients will help you deliver a healthy weight baby. Poor nutrition during breastfeeding makes it more challenging for mothers to replenish their nutrient stores and meet their additional dietary needs. To support pregnant and new families with healthy eating, we like to offer 1x month a free good food box to all families in our program. A good food box is a harvest box, filled with quality, fresh, local fruit and vegetables. In our community this is organized through the North Okanagan Good Food Box program. This way we offer many families access to healthy, nutritious eating during their pregnancy and after baby is born. To increase food security for program new families we would like to support 60 families per month @ \$25 per box (\$18,000), offer a food hamper to families early January (\$2,500) and to cover 10% for Administrative cost (\$2,050)	Receiving Funding for the Pregnancy Outreach Program through: BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, paying for wages of Registered Nurse for the Pregnancy Outreach Program Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Public Health Agency of Canada, main funding for the Pregnancy Outreach Program (Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program) Interior Health Authority, Funding partly the Pregnancy Outreach Program North Okanagan Early Years Table in Vernon: funding the Postpartum Depression and Anxiety Peer Support group and the Pregnancy Outreach Program at the Sikh Temple in Vernon BC Gaming, funding the Postpartum Depression and Anxiety Peer Support group BC Association of Farmers Markets: Nutrition coupon program (runs for 16 weeks per year), we support both new families and seniors with this funding. The North Okanagan Friendship Centre receive multiples smaller grants to assist our program operations.	Program is in coordination with the Good Food Box, who received a grant of \$4,800 in April 2024.			Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Vernon She Shed Society	Vernon She Shed Society became registered as a non-profit organization as of November 2023. We are in the process of hopefully becoming a charitable registered organization. In our first year of existence we started with nine (9) members and have welcomed an additional eighty (80) plus more women, indicating the desire for an organization such as we are. We are the first registered She Shed Society in Canada and already have both Kelowna and Kamloops interested in our blue print. We are very conscious of others wanting to create a similar organization and know that we need to be transparent and correct in all ways.	Project Funding	\$ 15,000	New Equipment purchases and set up in new location	\$10,000.00 is for equipment as in saws, dust filters, hand tools, safety equipment and supplies. \$ 5,000.00 is to provide materials for us to build tables and shelving, safety items such as eye and hearing protection, to upgrade electrical supply, to create an efficient, safe, complete and creative environment in our new location rented as of January 1, 2025.	We have applied for funding from Home Depot, 100 Women, Kal Rotary, Army, Navy Airforce Vets and Community Foundation. Army, Navy, Airforce Vets Unit #5 have donated \$500.00 to us in December 2023. Community Foundation North Okanagan issued \$11,500.00 to us in May 2024, to set up our website, create our logo and assist Archway to be encouraged to join us as well as offer projects for us to build for their transition house or needs of their clients. All other submissions fully support our organization but we do not qualify without having charitable designation.				Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Allan Brooks Nature Centre	Established as a Society in 1997 the Nature Centre offers visitors an immersive experience to explore and learn about the Okanagan's rich and diverse natural heritage through various views, informative programs, and exhibits showcasing the region's ecosystems. Housed in the historic Vernon Upper Air Weather Station, which opened its doors on July 1, 2000, the Centre is perfectly positioned on a grassland knoll at the meeting point of the Okanagan and Coldstream valleys. From this location, guests can enjoy stunning panoramic views of three lakes and five distinct ecosystems, highlighting the beauty of the Okanagan.	Project Funding	\$ 3,000	Mascot for Allan Brooks Nature Centre	Okanagan Okie mascot will be a vibrant ambassador for the Allan Brooks Nature Centre and the city of Vernon! By establishing Okie as the face of ABNC, we're not just creating a memorable brand, we're fostering a strong community identity. Okie will symbolize the spirit of our natural wonders and the rich culture of Vernon, bringing people together and igniting pride in our shared heritage. As a beloved character, Okie will engage visitors, inspire local youth, and promote conservation efforts. Let's unite under Okie's cheerful presence to celebrate Allan Brooks and showcase the beauty of our community!	We have contacted other businesses to assist in funding this project and are currently waiting for the response. ABNC will also be providing \$1000.00 towards the cost of the Mascot. We will not be receiving any grants from the RDNO for this project.				Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	

Organization Name	History	Type of Request	Amount of request	Grant purpose	Purpose/Allocation	Additional grants	Coordinator Comments	Manager Comments	Tax Exemption	Approved 2023 Grant	Grant Qualification Checklist
North Valley Gymnastics Society	<p>Gymnastics in the Vernon area began in 1978, with programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club. On May 10, 1993, North Valley Gymnastics Society ("NVGS"), a non-profit society, was founded and took over the programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club. For over thirty years, NVGS has offered gymnastics programs in the North Okanagan region to youth between the ages of 2 and 18. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and all our programming is taught by NCCP certified coaches. We are Vernon's only non-profit gymnastics facility, and are the only Gym BC certified member offering Can Gym, Xcel and CCP programs.</p> <p>For twelve years (1992-2004), programs were based at Bearstoe Elementary School, and club membership peaked at 225 members per session with 100 on a waiting list. Reduced gymnasium availability reduced programs and NVGS was without a permanent facility, moving between available spaces until the Spring of 2012 when NVGS moved to 45 Avenue. Membership rose to an average of 450 members per session (not including summer sessions) with between 75 and 100 members on the waiting list. In July 2017 NVGS was finally able to achieve its goal of obtaining an adequate sized facility when a building was purchased, located at 4700 31st Street. Renovations to the building were completed in 2020, and after making it through the pandemic NVGS was looking forward to growing into their forever home.</p> <p>In October of 2021 disaster struck, and our gym was completely destroyed in a fire. This resulted in our athletes having to travel initially to Kelowna for training, then to rental premises in Lumby owned by School District 22, with the ability to accommodate far less athletes. After many construction delays, we finally moved into our new 11,000 square foot leased premises in January 2024. This wonderful new location allows our program the space to grow to accommodate the demand, and we now need additional equipment to accommodate the increased number of athletes.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 5,000	New Equipment Purchase	If we are successful in obtaining funds from the City of Vernon, they would be utilized to purchase gym mat flooring to ensure that the existing concrete flooring is completely covered to ensure athlete safety. The total cost is \$11,025 and the remaining funds would come from donor funds already received and reserve funds.	We have applied for and received funds from Kalamalka Rotary Club, Gym BC, Foord Family Foundation and the Kneuper Foundation. We have also applied for funding through the BC Gaming Capital Grant stream and will receive a decision in December 2025. We are in the process of submitting grant applications to Toko, the Gordon and Jean Steele Family Foundation, and the Colin and Lois Pritchard Foundation and will be applying for funding from Community Foundation of North Okanagan in early 2025. We are also introducing a Corporate Sponsorship program to assist with costs.			\$ 7,460	Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Habitat for Humanity Okanagan	<p>Habitat for Humanity Okanagan has been in the Okanagan Valley since 1992. To date, we have built and sold 45 homes, with the completion of our four more homes in Lake Country, BC, in August 2024.</p> <p>A rough estimate of the investment we have made for each Habitat home we have built is approximately \$367,000 per home. When we multiply that number by 45, this amounts to sixteen million five hundred fifteen dollars (\$16,515,000) in affordable housing that we have raised all the dollars for and built throughout the Okanagan since 1992. This does not include the funds we raised for the land purchases to build each Habitat home.</p> <p>We serve the Okanagan region from Vernon to Penticton. Our Habitat for Humanity Okanagan affiliate office is located in the Habitat ReStore at 1793 Ross Road in West Kelowna.</p> <p>We are proud to serve the Vernon community and its surrounding areas. Our commitment to providing affordable housing and promoting community development extends beyond our office location. We ensure that Vernon families have access to the resources and programs we deliver and to the support they need.</p> <p>We deliver all of these same critical services in Vernon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Home constructions</li> <li>* Affordable Homeownership Program</li> <li>* Community Engagement</li> <li>* ReStore Operations</li> <li>* Collaboration with Local Organizations</li> </ul> <p>Our presence in the Vernon community reflects our dedication to ensuring everyone has access to safe and decent housing, regardless of where our head office is.</p> <p>Habitat ReStores exemplify our accomplishments and are a significant part of Habitat for Humanity's operations today. This innovative social enterprise is not just a great idea! It's a Canadian idea. Five volunteers from Winnipeg, Manitoba, opened Habitat for Humanity's first-ever ReStore in 1991. ReStores have since expanded throughout North America and globally. The Habitat ReStore model showcases Habitat for Humanity's innovative approach to addressing affordable housing through environmental sustainability.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 14,628	Computer Upgrade and New Security Fencing for Vernon ReStore	<p>Habitat for Humanity Okanagan requires funding for our Habitat ReStore located at 2709 43 Avenue in Vernon, BC. We seek to replace the failing security fence where our outdoor donations drop-off and receiving area is located. The current fence, installed when the store opened in 2019, has sustained significant damage from several past thefts and vandalism. It no longer provides adequate security, leading to more theft of donated items and store products. A more sturdy and secure fence is essential to protect our assets and ensure a safe environment for our shoppers, community members, volunteers, and the ReStore staff. A new, more durable theft-resistant fence system will help deter future theft and vandalism, safeguarding the products and items supporting our affordable housing mission. It will instill confidence in our donors and the community, reassuring them that their contributions are valued and well-protected. Enhancing our security measures will foster a safer environment for everyone involved.</p> <p>We have attained a quote from Accurate Fence &amp; Manufacturing, located in Coldstream. They provided us with a detailed quote that includes the supply and installation of 118' chain link fencing along the donation drop-off/receiving area. This will also entail supplying and installing a 2 x 18' double swing gate with a defined heavy commercial spec 8' All galvanized with six gauge mesh/S540 framing and the removal/disposal of the damaged compromised fence.</p> <p>We also seek to upgrade our office computer within the ReStore. Given its age, our current computer has become increasingly inadequate as technology evolves. It was purchased in 2017; it no longer supports newer software and applications and cannot be upgraded with a new operating system. Investing in current technology is essential for the continued success of our organization. We have attained a quote for a new computer, including all taxes, costing \$1450.40. Our IT provider will supply this.</p>	<p>The current economy continues to impact funding opportunities for charities, creating a challenging landscape for securing essential financial resources for Habitat. We have exhausted our efforts to secure funding for this initiative from other sources; we attribute that outcome to these ongoing economic challenges.</p> <p>Since 2021, the four Habitat ReStores we operate here in the Okanagan (Vernon, Kelowna, West Kelowna, Penticton) have seen overall profit margins fall because ReStore revenues to cover higher fixed operating costs remain low. The only scenario where a decrease in revenue does not damage the Habitat ReStore is when operational costs stay the same or decrease. This is not the case. In 2021, the net profit margin was about 32%. At the end of 2023, that profit margin fell to under 10%. With a steady decline in ReStore revenue and rising operational costs (i.e., rent, utilities, and higher wages), our path to profitability narrows.</p> <p>While every Habitat family is the ultimate benefactor of an affordable Habitat house, many people and organizations benefit from the dollars we spend in the community when building homes for local families. For local consumers, Habitat ReStores are often the most affordable way for their dollars to go further. However, unlike our for-profit counterparts, Habitat ReStores faces more resistance from our price-sensitive customer base.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity Okanagan programs and Habitat ReStore operations create jobs, wages, tax revenue, and multiple business activities in the communities where we build. Those dollars stay in the community, and the impact of Habitat's work circulates throughout the local economy. We are beginning to feel the pressure to do more with less, given the importance of the Habitat ReStores and how vital they are to the community regarding affordability. A discretionary grant would alleviate some financial pressures, and we are committed to using any discretionary grant dollars awarded for this initiative.</p>	Organization address is in West Kelowna, but grant request is for the Vernon ReStore location		Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit		
Sky Volleyball Club	<p>The club has a rich history dating back to 1975, when it was originally founded as the Vernon Volleyball Club. Sky Volleyball Club has been serving the Vernon community since its rebranding in 2018. Since then, we have evolved to meet the growing needs of the community while maintaining our strong legacy of promoting volleyball and community engagement. We have grown from a small group of enthusiastic players to a well-established organization with over 400+ active participants annually. Our accomplishments include hosting regional tournaments, partnering with local schools to provide volleyball clinics, and launching a scholarship program to support young athletes in financial need. We have consistently demonstrated our commitment to fiscal responsibility by carefully managing our resources, ensuring that funds are directed towards maximizing the impact on our participants and the community. Our history of successful events and partnerships reflects our ability to execute programs effectively and responsibly. By partnering with local schools, we have expanded our reach and provided quality volleyball training to hundreds of students, promoting physical health and teamwork. Additionally, our scholarship program has been instrumental in supporting talented athletes who face financial barriers, ensuring that all youth have the opportunity to participate, regardless of their financial situation. These initiatives align with the City of Vernon's goals of enhancing residents' quality of life, promoting health and wellness, and fostering community engagement. Sky Volleyball Club's track record of community impact, financial prudence, and effective program delivery makes us an ideal candidate for this grant. We have not only grown our participant base significantly but have also established ourselves as a key contributor to the local sports landscape. The grant will allow us to continue providing valuable services, expand our offerings, and further our mission.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 11,265	New Equipment. To enhance training quality, expand program reach, and improve community engagement	<p>The grant funding will be allocated towards the purchase of new equipment for Sky Volleyball Club. The list is in order of priority needs, with the highest priority purchases at the top. The specific items include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mikasa V0200+ Volleyballs (12 units): \$1,080</li> <li>2. Mikasa V200W Volleyballs (12 units): \$1,500</li> <li>3. Park &amp; Sun Sports adjustable setting target (1 unit): \$375</li> <li>4. Volleyball spike trainer (3 units): \$495</li> <li>5. Plyometric boxes (4 units): \$1,000</li> <li>6. Replacement nets (2 units): \$1,000</li> <li>7. Chairs for spectator seating (20 units): \$1,200</li> <li>8. DampDryn 250 Commercial Dehumidifier: \$3,400</li> <li>9. iPad for training and administrative purposes: \$679</li> </ol> <p>Subtotal: \$10,720 GST: \$536.45 Total: \$11,256.45</p> <p>This equipment will allow us to replace worn-out items, enhance the quality of training, and provide better facilities for participants, ultimately improving the overall experience for athletes and spectators alike.</p>	<p>Sky Volleyball Club has actively sought out various grant opportunities to support our programs and ensure financial sustainability. In previous years, we have successfully received funding through the Provincial Gaming Grant, which was instrumental in supporting our youth programs, equipment needs, and community events. Unfortunately, we were not successful in securing the Provincial Gaming Grant this year, but we remain committed to pursuing diverse funding opportunities to support our initiatives. We have taken several steps to diversify our funding sources. We are exploring funding opportunities from private foundations that support youth sports and community-based programs. We have also maintained close relationships with our local governments, including the City of Vernon, to stay informed about upcoming funding opportunities that align with our mission. Our proactive approach to grant applications demonstrates our commitment to securing sustainable funding for the long-term benefit of the community. By pursuing multiple funding streams, we are able to ensure the continuity of our programs, enhance the quality of our services, and reduce reliance on a single source of funding. This strategy aligns with the City of Vernon's grant guidelines, which emphasize the importance of fiscal responsibility and a well-rounded approach to funding. We also leverage our strong relationships with local businesses and community members to secure sponsorships and in-kind contributions. These partnerships not only provide additional financial support but also strengthen our community ties, ensuring that we have the backing and resources needed to continue delivering high-quality volleyball programs. By demonstrating a history of successful grant applications, financial prudence, and strong community partnerships, Sky Volleyball Club is well-positioned to make effective use of any additional funding awarded through the Council Discretionary Grant program.</p>			Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit		

Organization Name	History	Type of Request	Amount of request	Grant purpose	Purpose/Allocation	Additional grants	Coordinator Comments	Manager Comments	Tax Exemption	Approved 2023 Grant	Grant Qualification Checklist
North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society	NOYFSS was founded in 1974 by a group of concerned citizens and leaders from health, education, business and government. NOYFSS was founded to meet the needs of the children, youth and families in the North Okanagan. The first service operated by NOYFSS was Mara House, which opened its doors in 1974. Mara House added an Intensive Support Program to assist foster parents and developed into Specialized Homes & Support Services. In response to community needs, Community Based Services evolved to assist children, youth and families with a variety of programs. Specialized Homes & Support Services and Community Based Services continue to evolve to reflect the ongoing commitment of NOYFSS to the needs of the people of the North Okanagan. As we approach our 50th Anniversary of serving our community NOYFSS continues to grow and develop as an agency. Annually NOYFSS Serves over 1,200 families in the North Okanagan. We have close to 100 employees and we pride ourselves on being considered one of leading social agencies in the region. North Okanagan Youth & Family Services Society is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), further attesting to our commitment to exceed the highest international standards of best practice and delivering the best quality services to the North Okanagan community.	Project Funding	\$ 10,000	Young Parents & Supervised Access Program Meeting Space Transformation	The goal of this project is to update and transform the NOYFSS downstairs area into a welcoming, trauma informed, sensory friendly, inclusive meeting space. This area will be dedicated to our Young Parents Programs and Supervised Access Programs.  The current space being utilized for these (and other) programs is out of date. The space is utilized daily for Young Parents to connect, for Supervised Access visits, Parent Coaching and more. Many of the children coming into this space are under the age of 5 years old. Upgrades to this space will allow us to provide a safe environment that can meet the physical and emotional needs of all children, youth and families. Providing a welcoming and well equip space that can be adapted to the needs of each individual child and family, as well as provide a group setting for multiple children, youth and families to be in the space at one time. The room will be furnished to create an area that feels like a home, with sensory friendly, inclusive, educational and trauma informed toys and resources for all ages and abilities.	We receive grants from a variety of funders, however most grants applied for are done so for specific projects. The majority of our programs and services are funded.  The BC Gaming Grant is a regularly funded grant - which we receive annually to fund our free children and youth groups.  Additional grants from the past year include: CFNO Community Grant - Boardroom Project Updates IA Financial Community Fund - Intimate Partner Violence Training Home Depot Foundation - Youth at Risk  Smaller more local grant funders include Eagles Hall Eks Lodge			They receive 100% tax exemption on Class 6. 2024 value was \$17,055.		Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
Vernon Ski Club	The Vernon Ski Club, established in 1935, has a long and successful history. As one of the largest alpine ski clubs in the BC Interior, Vernon Ski Club continues to offer many benefits to young people while they enjoy skiing throughout their school years. Joining the club is an opportunity to build skills and develop friendships that will last a lifetime! Confidence, self discipline and pride grow through the camaraderie, friendly competition and family-oriented skiing activities that the club is known for. Our club thrives on the dedicated support of our members and volunteers. We are passionate about building life-long skiers and we work hard to provide positive role models and a learning environment that develops really great skiing skills. We also know that involvement in healthy sporting activities has additional benefits that go beyond the ski slopes and will last a lifetime. It is our goal to help our members excel in skiing and in life by providing fun, safe, high quality ski programs. Many graduates of the Vernon Ski Club have gone on to the Provincial and National Ski Teams. Some have followed career paths into coaching, instructing, management and other aspects of the ski industry. Others have gone on to professional careers bringing with them the life skills they developed while part of the club. We are very fortunate to have some of our alumni now returning to the club as coaches and parent volunteers. They bring with them a wealth of experience and are our own 'living proof' of how passion for the sport can be passed from one generation to the next.	Program Funding	\$ 4,250	Regular Program Funding	The funds will be used to rent space for dryland and off-snow training as well as the cost to rent space for the Annual Community Vernon Ski Swap. Our Fast & Fit program has two primary goals - develop the team' culture early and develop the fundamentals of athletics. The program aligns with the 'Learn to Train' phase of long term athletic development (seehttps://lad.alpinecanada.org/stages/learn-to-train). Broadly speaking, the program is targeted at 8-12 year olds though we may accept younger or older kids if it is deemed appropriate. The main goals of the program are: Have fun, play games, connect with your team mates and coaches. Increase awareness of how the body works and how to train. Develop physical literacy - agility, balance, coordination, basic speed, basic strength - through games and fun drills. Develop flexibility/develop fundamental skills of throwing, kicking, running, hopping, balancing etc.	The club depends on grants and donations from varying sources to keep the sport affordable and attainable. Grants from Community Gaming, Rotary, BC Winter Games and other donations are sought when opportunities arise. We actively campaign for donations and carry out fundraising such as the Vernon Ski Swap to cover athlete training costs and the costs of maintaining venues.					Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
North Okanagan Hotel Association	The North Okanagan Hotel Association (NOHA) was founded to promote collaboration among local hotels and to address common challenges within the hospitality industry. Over the years, NOHA has championed sustainability and innovation by offering resources and programs to its members. One of its notable accomplishments is assisting Quality Inn Vernon in obtaining solar panels, contributing to their 17kW system, which reduces overall emissions. NOHA also facilitated a free ASHRAE Level 1 Energy Audit, ensuring energy efficiency improvements for member hotels through BOMA BC.	Project Funding	\$ 2,000	Sustainability in Vernon Hotels	Purpose: The grant will fund the implementation of energy efficiency measures recommended in the BOMA BC Energy Audit for Quality Inn and other NOHA members. These recommendations aim to reduce energy consumption, operational costs, and carbon footprints. Allocation: * \$1,000: Implementation of recommended upgrades from the audit, such as energy-efficient lighting and HVAC improvements. * \$500: Workshops for hoteliers to share audit insights and best practices. * \$500: Educational materials and consulting services to assist other hotels in applying similar recommendations.	* Researching Funding Sources: NOHA identifies relevant grants that align with energy efficiency and sustainability goals, such as the BOMA BC Energy Audit program. * Building Partnerships: Collaborated with member hotels like Quality Inn Vernon to apply for the free ASHRAE Level 1 audit funded by BOMA BC. * Application Preparation: NOHA supports member hotels in preparing documentation and submitting applications for grants. * Implementation Support: After securing the grant, NOHA helps hotels implement energy-saving measures from the audit's recommendations.	Attachments are very minimal in information	New organization so no financial statements. Minimal budget information provided			Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit
OKeefe Ranch & Interior Heritage Society	Founded in 1867, O'Keefe Ranch is an important representation of early European settlement in the Okanagan. The O'Keefe, Greenhow and Schubert families came here as it was on the fur trade Brigade Trail, a route used to drive two hundred head of cattle from Oregon to the Cariboo gold mines during the Cariboo Gold Rush. As early establishers of the cattle and ranching industry in BC, they became prominent residents with large landholdings. The Ranch was an early business and service center with a general store, grist mill, blacksmith shop and church for what was a remote region in the 19th century. The first post office in the valley was established here in 1872. The ranch also produced significant quantities of grain. Through its strategic location on the early transportation routes and systems, the Ranch is associated with other key BC including the fur trade, mining, farming, and later fruit growing and cultural tourism. The largest groups of workers on the Ranch tended to be Chinese and Indigenous Sylix. More research is being done to bring this history to life.  In 1967 O'Keefe Ranch Historic Site was created as cultural tourism and community museums arose in the mid-20th century. O'Keefe Ranch is unique in comparison to sites such as Barkerville and Fort Steele that had significant provincial assistance. While other sites had been ghost towns for half a century before opening to the public, this site transformed directly from a functioning ranch to an open-air-museum run by the ranchers themselves, giving it a more relatable, tangible appeal. The O'Keefe collection of family buildings, furniture, artifacts, clothing and documents is the most comprehensive in Western Canada. The innovative rebranding and transformation of the site into a public historic site and the well-executed educational and marketing plan that supported the project since 1977 when the Interior Heritage Society was set up to preserve and present this history of the North Okanagan.	Program Funding	\$ 25,000	Student Education, Historical, Archives, Interpretation and Curatorial Program Maintenance	Four staff members and a large volunteer group run this programming. In addition to the expense of wages, salaries, and volunteer appreciation events, materials and supplies for repair maintenance, cleaning and program preparation are required. Consumable and re-usable materials and supplies for educational and hands-on activities for school students and camp participants. Materials and service needed to clean and repair heritage wardrobe pieces, antiques, and artifacts.  1. Education Coordinator (Full-time, seasonal position in May, June and September) Coordinates program bookings from schools Delivers educational programming to as many as 1,000 students per year (May, June, September) Conducts research and professional development to ensure best quality program delivery and content 2. Education Program Assistant (Part-time, seasonal position in May, June and September) Assists in delivering educational programming, morning preparation / set-up and clean-up 3. Curator (Full-time during the high season, part-time during the low season) Oversees care, handling, environment of the artifact collection (for the benefit of the artifacts and assists with community members who would like to access the archives or view specific pieces from our collection) Provides research opportunities for authors; in 2019, Sherri Field released her book, Cornelius O'Keefe: The Life, Loves, and Legacy of an Okanagan Rancher. Research for which was completed using the archival documents at O'Keefe Ranch. Interpretative programming museum exhibition design; logistical planning; installation; site signage, narrative; site displays Undergoes professional development on a regular basis. 4. Archives Assistant (full-time during the high season) Reporting to: Museum Curator Works in the care, development, documentation, study and administration of the collections at Historic O'Keefe Ranch and its heritage village of the late 1800s and early 1900s Victorian and Edwardian era.	Historic O'Keefe Ranch and Interior Heritage Society hired a part-time grant writer for the 2023 - 2024 year. We have been successful in wage-subsidy grants for our seasonal staff. We hired 28 youth and young adults for the 2024 high season and 80% of their wages were subsidized through the Federal Canada Summer Jobs program and Youth in Heritage program. We were successful in receiving a \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the North Okanagan for retrofitting the commercial kitchen of the old "Cattlemen's Club" restaurant on-site, now newly rebranded as "The Rustler's Table Restaurant." We have received small grants of \$2,000 and \$3,000 for our annual Combow Festival and A Victorian Christmas Carol event from the BC Community Gaming Grant. However, we apply annually to the BC Gaming Branch for \$65,000 for our Youth Education, Archives and Curatorial programming, and we did not get that very important funding this year which we have relied on in previous years. We applied for \$15,000 in funding assistance from the Vernon Silver Star Rotary in April of 2024, and never heard back. We applied for the Prospera Credit Union grant for \$60,000 toward the Youth Education, Archives and Curatorial program, but our submission was decline. They stated, "After a thorough review, we have reached our disbursement limit for 2024 and, unfortunately, your proposal was not selected this year." Lastly, we have recently submitted an application to the Federally funded New Horizons grant for \$25,000 for the purpose of getting seniors active and involved in the community. O'Keefe Ranch offers volunteer opportunities and events specific to seniors and retirees in our community. We hope we are successful in receiving this grant and we will use the monies to support our volunteer program.	Review engagement on Financial Statements was provided. Policy requires audited financial statements if ask is \$25,000 or greater. Request does include wages for positions			Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
North Okanagan Child Care Society	In 1994, a group of Vernon parents set out on a mission to create a child care and early learning centre unlike any other. It would have the feeling of a family and it would be a warm and inspiring place where children would have a chance to be curious, bond with educators, learn about themselves and their world, explore the community on field trips and spend time with peers. The first home of the North Okanagan Child Care Society was in the basement of Bearsto Elementary School. It was here that we began our reputation for providing outstanding child care and early learning. Over the years, from a single room with 16 children, our little child care centre grew and grew. In 2013 we purchased the old West Vernon Elementary School building from the school district. Today our Vernon centre offers 5 Infant/Toddler, 7 0-5, 1 pre-school and 7 school age programs for 336 children and provides child care to well over 250 families. As well, we are the employer of choice for over 120 educators. We have 3 satellite centres offering the same programming and commitment to service and childcare in Coldstream, Lavinton and Okanagan College.	Project Funding	\$ 25,000	Installation of Accessible Ramps for inclusive access to our facility!	Our objective is to upgrade 2 of our entry ways with accessible ramps to offer an inclusive environment for all our current and future children, caregivers and community members. In line with our strategic plan, we have been dedicated to creating an environment that is fully accessible and inclusive for all children, families, staff and community members. Our building assessment identified our need to prioritize improving our barriers to accessibility and safety for persons with disabilities and/or movement challenges to bring the facility up to date. We have installed a fully accessible playground, upgraded to automatic doors with accessible buttons, added accessible parking stalls and washrooms, and upgraded our fire alarm system with flashing lights for visual cues. This project will see the addition of 2 wheelchair ramps from separate exits which will then provide safe access for persons of all abilities between our facility, the accessible playgrounds, and fire evacuation routes which currently have stair access only. The ramps will also provide quick and easy access for the strollers that our 60 Infant toddlers use to come and go from our centre on community walks and evacuation procedures. The funds will be utilized entirely to build the 2 separate outdoor ramps leading up to each access door.	To further our goal of becoming a 100% accessible facility we have acquired grants from the Canadian Enabling Accessibility Fund for new automatic doors at all of our centres as well as the addition of two accessible playgrounds. We also secured a grant with Tire Stewardship BC for rubber surfacing of an accessible playground. Both projects have now been completed. We do not have any grants from other sources at this time to help with this project.			36% of Class 1. 2024 value was \$2,777		Community Based: Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or: Must only submit one application per calendar year: Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit

Organization Name	History	Type of Request	Amount of request	Grant purpose	Purpose/Allocation	Additional grants	Coordinator Comments	Manager Comments	Tax Exemption	Approved 2023 Grant	Grant Qualification Checklist
Athletics for Kids	<p>Athletics4Kids believes that sport has the power to transform children socially, emotionally, and physically—today, and for the rest of their lives. A4K was founded in 2002 by four passionate individuals committed to making a difference in children's lives. Since then, our Sport4Life Program has distributed over 14,000 grants to children in need. A4K's overarching goal is to be there to assist any B.C. child in their dream of playing amateur sports. A4K currently delivers an average of 120 Sport4Life grants per month. These grants are going to at-risk youth across BC. We provide up to \$450 every year for each child and allow for more than one sports grant per year. This ensures that kids can reap the benefits of sport year-round. The benefits of sport go far beyond physical activity; sport builds physical, mental, social, and emotional strength and health. Studies show that when children are able to participate in sports, they learn a variety of critical life skills, including team building, leadership, empathy, communication, and collaboration; they instill confidence, build self-esteem, teach commitment and dedication, work ethic, perseverance, respect, and social skills – all vital in creating a contributing member of society.</p> <p>We have a growing network of coaches, counsellors, educators, and administrators who help us connect with families across BC that need our support to get their kids in the game. Additionally, we have a board of directors, two full-time paid staff, and over 100 volunteers. Each member of the team and board has a unique background that can provide A4K with a range of skills, information, and experience. We are grateful to have such a diverse group of passionate individuals working for the organization, from marketing to accounting to legal. We have been able to reach more children in our province because of the personal and professional contacts of many of our members.</p>	Program Funding	\$ 6,500	Sport4Life Vernon Grant Program	<p>According to the 2023 BC Child Poverty Report Card, one in seven children were living in poverty in 2021. This upward trend is predicted to continue. Therefore, this demonstrates that the need for funding is higher than ever since many families cannot afford sports programs for their children on top of basic necessities. This leaves parents forced to say a heartbreaking "no" to their kids' sporting dreams. Research shows that physical activity not only improves children's physical health, but also works to keep the mind healthy. Participation in sports is one of the key ways we can help children achieve a healthy lifestyle. Athletics4Kids helps make this possible by covering up to 100% of base registration fees, empowering families to enroll their children in sporting activities that can make long-lasting differences in their lives. We work with children who are refugees, new immigrants, foster kids, kids with developmental needs, aboriginal kids, and more.</p> <p>The funds received will go directly to our Sport4Life Vernon Grant Program. This will directly affect 15 children in Vernon, and allow them to reap the benefits of sport. Deserving families will be able to provide their children with a healthy outlet, helping them reach their potential. Athletics4Kids believes in the transformative power of sports for children, impacting them socially, emotionally, and physically. Participation in amateur sports promotes a healthy lifestyle for children by supporting weight management, improving cardiovascular fitness, increasing bone strength, and enhancing overall physical literacy. By learning new skills alongside their peers, children naturally boost their self-esteem. Sports also offer a great way for kids to break out of isolation, fostering social connections with others. Additionally, the body's chemical response to physical activity has been shown to reduce anxiety and stress.</p>	<p>Athletics4Kids has an effective grant writing process which allows us to efficiently apply for grants across the province. This process has multiple steps involving research, planning, and writing proposals. The first step we take is to define the specific needs of our program at the time. For example, we may require funding for our Sport4Life program, marketing costs, or operational costs. We aim to align our needs with the organization's mission and goals so that our request is impactful. The second step we take is to research the grants offered by family foundations, community foundations, government organizations, and more. We only select grants when we know we meet all of the requirements to ensure we are as efficient as possible. Additionally, we maintain a grant database which holds information such as deadlines, approvals/rejections, links, and more. While writing proposals, we tailor each grant to the funders' specific guidelines and focus area. Along the way we also try to build rapport with representatives from funding organizations.</p>	Address of organization is in North Vancouver. Grant request is for Vernon Sport4Life grant program.			Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Together for Christmas Society	<p>The organization began in 2008, with a dinner held at St. James School. It was advertised in the city and people volunteered their time to create the dinner. Many people came to that dinner and in subsequent years the numbers of guests increased. The event grew in size over the years but has always been a volunteer group of people who just want to make sure others feel welcomed. The grant was applied for society status in 2014 and is still a registered society. We fundraise each year to cover the costs of the dinner and many businesses help with discounted goods to help with our dinner. Our annual baking bee to prepare desserts for the dinner is an important event as many younger families participate in this event. We gather our volunteers together in advance of the event to decorate the venue and also to peel all the potatoes and vegetables needed for the dinner. The dinner before Covid saw 375+ meals served. Last Christmas Day, 2023 we served 300 meals. We have consistently been an event where people feel welcomed and celebrated.</p>	Program Funding	\$ 1,000	Regular Program Funding	<p>The grant will be to cover the cost of the rental of Schubert Center (\$500) and rental of kitchen space at Trinity United Church for the baking bee and vegetable peeling which happen before Dec, 25, (\$350) as well as helping to offset the insurance costs for the event. Last year's insurance was 350.00 and we anticipate a higher cost this year as we are renting in two locations.</p>	<p>We seek local community donations from businesses and individuals. We have a number of businesses who yearly will donate things to us for the meal as well as community business partners who give us a good deal to lessen the cost of our event. We have some individuals who donate money toward making the event happen. We have not been able to identify grant programs that might support an event that is filling this need, when no services or meals are available on the stat holiday, December 25.</p>	No Financial Statement information was provided, only the budget was provided.			Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation	<p>Take a Hike was founded in 2000 with one program in Vancouver. Over the course of twenty-four years, TAH has developed a unique, evidence-based program model that has supported thousands of youth to transform their lives. In 2013, we partnered with School District #20 to open the West Kootenays Take a Hike program – the first program outside Vancouver – based at the Kootenay-Columbia Learning Centre in Trail to address the high need for youth mental health supports in the community. Over the past five years, we have grown our program capacity by nearly 500%. Take a Hike now has the capacity to serve up to 300 youth annually across 15 programs in the Lower Mainland (Vancouver, Burnaby, Delta, West Vancouver), Fraser Valley (Coquitlam, Mission), Vancouver Island (Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley, Saanich, and Sooke), and Interior (West Kootenays, Merritt, Central Okanagan, Vernon, and Okanagan Skaha) regions. TAH Vernon opened in September 2023 after School District #22 reached out to us to have our innovative and effective evidence-based approach in their community. We continue to see unprecedented demand for TAH from communities in the Interior region, where the health authority reports nearly double the rate of child and youth suicides as compared to the BC rate, and as a result, we expanded our Interior region hub with the launch of the Okanagan Skaha program in Sept. 2024. Moreover, in 2019, TAH was recognized as an Honour Roll nominee for the Cmolik Prize for the Enhancement of Public Education in BC; the OECD Future of Education and Skills 2030 Working Group also visited TAH program as an example of innovation in education and skills programming. TAH was further recognized by the BC Provincial Ministry of Education as a program of note for the United Nations.</p>	Program Funding	\$ 5,000	Land-based learning for Take a Hike Vernon program	<p>Funding of \$5,000 from the City of Vernon will support Take a Hike's Vernon program and provide up to 20 vulnerable youth with vital mental health and land-based learning resources. Funding will go towards land-based learning supplies and outdoor gear and equipment that youth will use during their weekly out-days and multi-day wilderness trips, transportation, and park entrance fees, and camping permits. Land-based learning support youth in their mental well-being, relationship-building, and academic learning, as well as provides them with opportunities to develop communication, leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and wilderness skills. Funding will ensure that youth have access to the phenomenal outdoor landscape that the BC Interior region offers. Some examples of activities for youth include: mushroom foraging at Slespey Hollow Gardens; hiking at Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park and BX Creek Trail; camping at Mable Lake Provincial Park; and biking at the Okanagan Rail Trail. Being outdoors allows staff and youth to interact through shared experience, which builds healthy and secure attachment and supports mental health and counselling work with youth. Spending time in nature takes youth away from daily stressors and distractions, as well as helps them to self-regulate and engage in self-reflection. Cross-curricular academics covering sciences, math, and other subjects are also incorporated into outdoor land-based learning activities, allowing youth to learn hands-on and with real-life applications.</p>	<p>TAH is a proven intervention and prevention program for youth and thanks to long-standing support from a community of dedicated donors, TAH has a strong foundation on which to build upon our program; however, with the surging demands for more youth mental health support, the need for programs like TAH remains high. Each year we depend on philanthropic dollars to meet this need and so do the youth that attend. We actively seek out and apply to a number of community, foundational, provincial, and federal funding grants on an ongoing basis, as well as recruit additional fundraisers to ensure we can serve youth in our programs and grow our capacity to support more communities in need across BC. We also apply to grants to help scale our programming in the province and across the country, and to afford program sustainability.</p>	Organization's address is in Vancouver. Grant request is for Vernon Take a Hike program.			Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
North Okanagan Optimist Club	<p>NOOC is an affiliated member of Optimist International (established in 1919). The local club was chartered on September 27, 2011 in Vernon with 23 members. The club currently has 25 members representing all age groups and all walks of life. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month (except for December, July and August), where new members are always invited and welcome to participate and join. All our members are very active in the club.</p> <p>Major accomplishments - current and historical - include: organizing annual "Unplug &amp; Play weeks or days beginning in 2013; organizing the annual Vernon District Heritage Fairs; participating on the steering committee for the Cities Fit for Children Provincial Summit 2015 in Vernon; purchasing 2 "Opti" sailboats for the North Okanagan Sailing Association's Youth Learn to Sail Program; co-hosting the Jam Cam event during Vernon Winter Carnival, creating the Playground Boxes Project. To date 6 playground boxes are installed in local neighbourhood parks; Alexis Park, Sawicki Park, Heritage Park, Lakeview Park, Lavington Park and the 43rd Street Tot Lot. To date, the Club has volunteered at the annual Children's Christmas Gift House in December.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 2,000	New Program Funding - Children's Christmas Gift House	<p>This year the Optimist Club has agreed to host the Children's Christmas Gift House which takes place in December at the People Place downstairs. The event was previously organized by the People Place, but they no longer have the staff or the funding to do this. The Gift House is a one day store for underprivileged children who are unable to purchase gifts for their parents. The store is filled with donations from the community, either in goods or some funding. The Club advertises for donations - we have 4 donation boxes at various locations around town - the donations are sorted (not all are appropriate or in suitable condition) and then divided into categories (mom, dad, grandparents) and distributed among the tables that have been set up by volunteers.</p> <p>The children can select gifts for the adults in their family; volunteers guide them around; other volunteers gift wrap their selections and have them write their family member's name on a card. If they have any money, the children donate \$1 or \$2; otherwise it is entirely free for the children, teaches them the value of giving and exposes them to the value of volunteering.</p> <p>In many cases the selection is plenty for mom, but not enough for Dad, so the Club will purchase anything missing, particularly for dad or grandfather. In addition, gift baskets that the children can take home are prepared for the entire family. Parents stay in a separate room from the Gift House so that they cannot see what the children select. Last year the Gift House put smiles on approximately 120 children's faces. The Club works with SDF22 and service agencies to identify children for event. With the rising cost of living, it is expected that the number of children this year will surpass last years.</p> <p>Funding is required to purchase a number of appropriate gifts, to be able to put a Gift Card in each basket, to purchase baskets, wrapping paper, bows, do some advertising, and provide beverages and cookies for parents and volunteers.</p>	<p>B.C. Community Grant application - \$6,000 (approved January 2024 - will be applying again this year). Kal Tire - 3 year grant of \$3,000 per year for the Playboxes. Corporate and private donations for the "Art from the Optimist Attic" fundraiser at the Vernon Yacht Club.</p>	Address of the organization is in Coldstream, but the grant request is for the Christmas gift event in Vernon at the People Place.			Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	

Organization Name	History	Type of Request	Amount of request	Grant purpose	Purpose/Allocation	Additional grants	Coordinator Comments	Manager Comments	Tax Exemption	Approved 2023 Grant	Grant Qualification Checklist
Sovereign Lake Nordic Club	<p>The Sovereign Lake Nordic Club began in the 1930s as the Vernon Ski Club before there were ski lifts or a provincial park on Silver Star Mountain. As Nordic skiing and alpine skiing evolved as separate disciplines, the cross-country community in Vernon created the North Okanagan Cross-Country Ski Club as a not-for-profit society in the early 1980s, which was later renamed the Sovereign Lake Nordic Club. Key accomplishments since then include introducing thousands of Vernon and area school kids to cross-country skiing through the subsidized S'Cool Ski Program, skill development through Saturday morning and weekend night's programs, and bringing the world to Vernon by hosting two World Cup Races and two provincial, national, and North American ski and biathlon races. We also run Canada's largest Masters (55+) Nordic program, encouraging older people at all levels to socialize on snow while improving fitness and skills.</p> <p>As noted, SLNCC operates the trail network and cabins on a not-for-profit basis, keeping the cost of winter outdoor activity relatively low. The facility started as just the local Vernon Nordic ski trails but has evolved to become an important tourist destination in addition to serving Vernon. An economic impact study completed in 2023 concluded that Sovereign Lake's operations generate \$5.2 million dollars in local GDP annually (sum of direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits; see below).</p>	Project Funding	\$ 6,825	Funding for Environmental Assessment Lodge Legacy Project	<p>The purpose of the grant is to secure partial funding to support an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the planned upgrade to the day lodge at the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre. The day lodge is located in Silver Star Provincial Park, and an EIA is required for all works in BC Provincial Parks. The current day lodge is 35 years old and needs to be expanded and upgraded to meet the needs of the 40,000+ annual user-days at Sovereign Lake. The upgrades include larger rental space, more washrooms, greatly improved accessibility for people living with disabilities, and features that will reduce the environmental footprint of the operations (i.e., better insulation and windows). Only renewable energy sources will be used. A larger and upgraded day lodge will also help SLNCC to continue to attract major ski &amp; biathlon races to Greater Vernon. These events bring out-of-region visitors 3 or 4 times each year, with up to about 1200 visitors staying for 4-7 days.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment is the focus of this application. The EIA will be completed by a qualified local consultant under the direction of SLNCC's Board and with input from BC Parks. The goal is to identify potential environmental effects from construction and operation of the day lodge and to identify measures to avoid or minimize any adverse environmental effects. Potential effects to be considered include water quality, wildlife &amp; wildlife habitat, air quality, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The EIA will also inform the design and provide direction on the overall sustainability of the project (including construction waste minimization, waste management, energy efficiency, water conservation, etc.) The total cost of the EIA is estimated at \$13,650 (plus GST). SLNCC is requesting 50% of this cost from the City of Vernon Discretionary Grant, \$6,825. The remainder will be covered from the reserves set aside by the club for the Lodge Legacy Project or from other grant sources (see above).</p>	<p>Fundraising for the overall Lodge Legacy Project is on-going, with more than 30% of the total project budget secured, including \$1,400,000 committed by BC Parks and more than \$150,000 committed by club members to date. For the design phase, which includes the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we have applied for funding from the Food Family Foundation (successful, but only enough to support some of the architectural fees) and from PacificCan's Tourism Growth Program (not successful) and have received in-kind support (see below). This is the first grant application that specifically covers the EIA and sustainability planning for the project. To date, we have not received financial support from the Regional District of North Okanagan or other regional bodies (e.g., ETSS).</p>				Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Vernon Upper Room Mission Society	<p>Since 1980, The Upper Room Mission has been feeding the hungry in Vernon. It was founded by Ron Morgan, a local sheriff, who started with just a hot plate and a bag of porridge—no fridge, no kettle, just a heart for helping.</p> <p>Over the years, the community rallied to support the Mission. Local businesses donated food and supplies, volunteers stepped up to serve, and even guests helped with clean-up. What began as a small, grassroots effort grew into a vital community hub, thanks to the generosity and unity of Vernon.</p> <p>Now, 42 years later, the Upper Room Mission has become a pillar of support for those in need. In 2023, we achieved the following: 42,000 meals served, 1,750 showers provided, 950 loads of laundry done, 1,500 people received donated clothing, 35,000 pounds of food rescued from waste, 95 people stayed overnight at our winter shelter, 87 volunteers contributed 15,000 hours, valued at \$300,000 (based on \$20/hour wage). Our work continues, fueled by the heart of the community.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 7,000	Laundry Machines Purchase	<p>We are seeking the City of Vernon's support to purchase two new commercial-grade washers and dryers for the Upper Room Mission's permanent shelter floor.</p> <p>Our goal is to transition our temporary Winter Shelter to the second floor, creating a permanent space for guests to sleep. With this renovation, we need dedicated laundry facilities to manage bedding and linens used by our guests. We are asking for assistance to acquire two washers and dryers for the new shelter area, which will be essential in maintaining a clean, safe environment for those staying with us.</p> <p>The cost of this purchase is \$7000.00</p>	<p>Grants from other sources: As a non-profit organization, we continually rely on external sources of funding to keep our services going. Over the last year, we have received funds from the following resources: BC Community Gaming Grant, Grants from Kalamalka and Silverstar Rotary, Vernon Alliance Church, North Okanagan Community Foundation, Food Family Foundation, PARC, BC Housing</p>	The 2023 grant that was awarded for \$6,500 was to purchase two new commercial grade laundry washing and drying machines.	100% exemption on 3 class 6 sites. Total value for 2024 was \$22,742	\$ 6,500	Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Mackie Lake House Foundation	<p>Mackie Lake House was built in 1910, and over the course of 89 years, three families lived in the home. Those family members served in World Wars, in local government, established the Vernon Preparatory School, contributed to the fruit growing industry, and even worked with international dignitaries.</p> <p>The Mackie Lake House Foundation was founded in 1993 by Paddy Mackie—a Vernon schoolteacher. In the past 30 years, we have hosted countless guided tours, provided free field trip opportunities for thousands of local children, have been the site of weddings and funerals, and have been a champion of local arts through our annual concert series and Artist in Residence Program. We preserve thousands of artifacts original to the families who occupied the home, as well as archival documents, photographs, and artworks. We are continually striving to find new ways to interpret our history to visitors, and to help engage local citizens and visitors with stories of the Okanagan.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 3,000	2025 Interpretive Program Funding	<p>2025 Interpretive Program - this is a two-part program that includes funding for a temporary exhibition on the Second World War (coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the end of the war in 1945) that will be designed and mounted-in house as well as for updated signage in several Mackie Lake House out-buildings that were staged and opened for the public for the first time in 2024, and for which we have received a great visitor response. This includes: 1910s era veranda, our root cellar, 1890s barn, carriage shed, and Fyflon Forest (an outdoor trail and the site of the original orchard).</p> <p>As mentioned, we have already received in-kind support from local businesses to fund part of the exhibition, as well for some of the site signage. We would use this discretionary grant to fund signs and display furniture (cases and mounts) for the WW2 exhibition, as well as for the printing and mounting of signs for the spaces listed above.</p> <p>All curatorial work and graphic design will be completed in-house at Mackie and will be provided as an in-kind contribution from our organization (approx. \$1956)</p>	<p>Mackie Lake House routinely applies for grants from organizations including: Kai Rotary, the Community Foundation of the North Okanagan, Young Canada Works, and the Regional District of the North Okanagan. This year we will apply for grants from the former three organizations listed for projects relating to capital improvements, for student employment funding, and community collaborations amongst other heritage sites.</p> <p>Thus, we would like to ask the City of Vernon for funding towards our 2025 Interpretive Program (outlined below).</p>	Location is Coldstream			Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Vernon Lawn Bowling Club	<p>The VLBC has been a fixture in Pelton Park since 1917. It has remained active for over 100 years. It provides the opportunity for social and competitive bowling. Many members of our club have been recognized and been successful in local, regional and provincial competitions.</p> <p>We are an active member of the Interior Lawn Bowling Association connecting with and interacting with other lawn bowling clubs from Kamloops to Osoyoos.</p> <p>Out of town participants come to Vernon to compete in at least 2 events a year, highlighting all Vernon has to offer.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 2,000	New Equipment Purchase	<p>The purpose of this grant would be to replace an aging water heater with a new Electric water heater. It would include purchasing the water heater and installation.</p>	<p>We have applied for the New Horizons grant and are actively searching for grants that would be a good match to our organization.</p>				Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or	
Vernon Pickleball Association	<p>The Vernon Pickleball Association (VPA) started when Wally Herrmann placed an ad in the classifieds asking if anyone wanted to learn how to play pickleball. The couple of people that showed up for that first session has grown into a club with 1200+ members. Our members have worked together with the City of Vernon to build one of the best pickleball facilities in Canada and VPA has had the honor of being named Canada's Best Pickleball Club in 2023. In the last couple of years VPA has had the opportunity to host several large tournaments. In 2023, we hosted the first ever, Pickleball BC Provincial Championships and in 2024 we hosted the Western Regional Championships. These tournaments brought in many players from across the Province and Western Canada bringing visitors to the businesses in Vernon.</p> <p>The Okanagan Wealth Advisors (OWA) Pickleball Complex is the largest covered dedicated Pickleball complex in Canada. It is home to the Vernon Pickleball Association (VPA). The courts are used for both dedicated member play and for non-member play. In total this is a \$3.4 million structure that the VPA will operate at least until 2042 for the benefit of our members as well as the general public. Besides the \$2.3 million of capital our club has provided, there are thousands of member volunteer hours associated with the 3 phases of construction. The VPA will also pay all operating costs for these next 20 years which adds up to a further \$6 million which again does not include all the volunteer hours associated with the various committees and functional groups.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 8,500	Sound System	<p>The purchase of a sound system within the complex will enable us to have clear communications. The acoustics within the complex are not complementary with what is being utilized at this time. The ability to project announcements, information, etc throughout the complex with clearness is important for time sensitive notifications to players and participants. To ensure we can continue to host national level competitions, we need to offer high quality equipment within our complex.</p>	<p>The Vernon Pickleball Association applied for the BC Games legacy grant - was not successful</p> <p>We are actively seeking additional grants for the sound system project</p> <p>The Vernon Pickleball Association received a \$250,000 grant from BC Gaming in 2023 to construct the Herrmann House addition to our world class facility with a Reception, Administration, Washroom and Social space. The space was designed at a preliminary cost of \$1.25 million.</p>		50% on Class 6 and Class 8. 2024 value was \$9,589		Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit	
Archway Society for Domestic Peace	<p>The Archway Society for Domestic Peace was founded in 1975 to serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other power-based crimes. Today, with 17 programs across six locations, our team is dedicated to providing essential services to those in need.</p> <p>Since 2015, Oak Child and Youth Advocacy Centre has served abused children and youth in Vernon, providing them with immediate and intensive case management services and caregiver support. We work tirelessly to ensure that every child, youth, and their families receive the information, support, and protection they need throughout the justice process and beyond. To date, Oak Centre has served 1,213 children and youth as well as their siblings, caregivers and extended family members.</p> <p>At Archway Society, we are committed to creating a world free from violence. We believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from abuse, and we are dedicated to empowering survivors to rebuild their lives with compassion, respect, and unwavering support.</p>	Project Funding	\$ 10,000	Replacement of video recording equipment for forensic interviews for child abuse investigations	<p>Oak Child and Youth Advocacy Centre is in desperate need of new recording and sound equipment for forensic interviews conducted by RCMP during child abuse investigations. Video-recorded evidence is used to capture the child's original account of events, when details are most vivid. The recorded statements are entered as evidence into court as the child's testimony so that they do not have to repeat their experience in the courtroom in front of their alleged abuser. The recording equipment is crucial to ensuring a trauma-informed approach with child victims.</p> <p>Our recording equipment is almost 10 years old, and was installed when we opened in 2015. The current equipment reached end-of-life in June 2024, as deemed by the manufacturer. It needs to be replaced before it fails and compromises recorded police evidence. The new equipment will ensure we obtain high-quality recordings that can be played in court and spare the child from giving live testimony.</p>	<p>Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYACs) are not currently eligible for ongoing federal or provincial government funding. Since its establishment in 2015, Oak Centre has sought and acquired grants from federal, provincial and local sources, the majority of which are used to sustain day-to-day operational activities. Extraordinary expenses, such as this project, requires that we seek support of the City in order to continue serving young victims of crime.</p>	Submitted an application in April that was denied due to limited funds for distribution	They did apply in April, and were denied.	100% exemption on Class 6. 2024 amount was \$8,642	\$ 6,000	Community Based; Providing a service which is not provided by any other group or organization within the city or; Must only submit one application per calendar year; Grant request is not to cover retroactive funding or to cover a deficit