November 1, 2019

Executive Policy Committee
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB
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re: Community Centre Universal Funding Formula

Community Centres receive an annual operating grant, referred to as the Universal Funding Formula (UFF), from the City of Winnipeg. The UFF was developed and approved by both Council and the membership of the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres Inc. (GCWCC) in 1993. The funding formula components include: heated square footage of individual Community Centre facilities, population base of each centre's catchment boundary, and the number of outdoor hockey rinks operating for each Community Centre. Changes in heated square footage, number of operating outdoor hockey rinks and inflationary costs are adjusted annually and funding is approved by Council. There are currently 63 City of Winnipeg owned/volunteer managed Community Centres in Winnipeg.

The Universal Funding Formula and its associated Responsibility Document are reviewed as required by the GCWCC, City Administration and representatives from the Community Centre membership to ensure that they are fair, equitable and responsive to both the needs of Community Centres and the City of Winnipeg.

The GCWCC, its membership and the Public Service have now completed an in-depth review of the UFF and the accompanying Responsibilities Document. The UFF Review Committee recommended no changes to the formula components, and only minor changes to the Responsibilities Document. In 2011, Council approved use of the Consumer Price Index (which is a broad measure of over 600 goods and services in Canada) as a measure for annual UFF increase adjustments. The UFF Review Committee and the Community Centre membership unanimously recommended a shift to a more accurate inflationary index tailored specifically to Community Centre operations. This specialized index was developed in consultation with public service representatives. The committee unanimously endorsed that a request be made for a one-time retroactive UFF adjustment to centres for the past two years, totaling $102,975. Going forward, the committee also proposed that CPI continue to be used at minimum, but in years where the specialized Community Centre annual inflationary index exceeds CPI, the specialized Community Centre index/basket would be utilized as a basis for the annual UFF funding amendments.
The GCWCC and its membership have unanimously endorsed the proposed changes to the UFF and the associated Responsibilities Document as described within the Community Services Department's Administrative Report to the Executive Policy Committee and Council for consideration. We hope that Council gives favourable consideration to this report in order to both assist and support Community Centres with the essential services they provide to the citizens of Winnipeg.

Sincerely,

Cindy Fox
Acting Executive Director
GCWCC

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