

Application for Funding – Heritage Conservation Program – Little Stone Schoolhouse

ISSUE

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre requested funding for a conservation project at the Little Stone Schoolhouse, located on the grounds of the University of Saskatchewan, under the Heritage Conservation Project.

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be forwarded to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommending approval of funding, up to a maximum of \$20,000 over a three-year term, for the Little Stone Schoolhouse conservation project, and that the General Manager, Community Services Department, be authorized to remit payment of the grant following completion of the project.

BACKGROUND

The Heritage Conservation Program, under [Council Policy C10-020, the Civic Heritage Policy](#), provides funding for Designated Municipal Heritage Properties for conservation and rehabilitation of character-defining elements of a heritage property. Financial incentives include a grant for 50% of the eligible costs of a project to a maximum of \$150,000 for taxable properties, and \$75,000 for tax exempt properties. This is the first application received for Little Stone Schoolhouse under the Heritage Conservation Program.

The Little Stone Schoolhouse is a one-room school, originally known as Victoria School, that was built by Alexander Marr in 1887. The building was one of the first heritage conservation projects in western Canada and was designated as a Municipal Heritage Property in 1982 under City of Saskatoon Bylaw No. 6209, Municipal Heritage Bylaw. The Statement of Significance for the property is included (see Appendix 1), along with photographs of the subject property (see Appendix 2) and the Municipal Heritage Bylaw 6209 (see Appendix 3).

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Project

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre requested heritage funding for a proposed heritage conservation project to mitigate the potential impact of lead paint and asbestos within the Little Stone Schoolhouse. The property is currently used for programming and education purposes. The building underwent an air quality assessment in spring of 2021, and the results of that assessment confirmed the presence of lead paint on the walls and ceiling, as well as the presence of asbestos within the interior structure of the chalk board. The applicant intends to undertake the remediations of these two items.

Grant

Council Policy C10-020, the Civic Heritage Policy, provides financial incentives in the form of a grant for 50% of the costs related to the restoration of architectural elements and renovations to meet building code requirements, where it affects heritage elements of the building (up to a maximum of \$150,000 over a 10-year period for taxable properties and \$75,000 for non-taxable properties). The maximum amortization period is 10 years. Within a 10-year period, an owner may make more than one application, provided the total amount does not exceed the maximum.

Under the Heritage Conservation Program, this is the first application for Little Stone Schoolhouse. The estimated cost of the heritage conservation project is \$40,000, inclusive of tax and a 30% contingency. The grant being requested is for \$20,000, which is 50% of the estimated costs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of this project is \$40,000, and under Council Policy No. C10-020, the Civic Heritage Policy, the project would qualify for 50% of the eligible costs. The current uncommitted balance of the Heritage Reserve is \$52,682.97.

If the application is approved, the amount of this grant will be paid over a three-year term and will be dispersed following completion of the project. The final amount paid will be based on the final project costs.

NEXT STEPS

Pending approval by City Council, Administration is proposing that the grant be paid out following project completion.

APPENDICES

1. Statement of Significance – Little Stone Schoolhouse
2. Photographs of Little Stone Schoolhouse
3. Bylaw No. 6209, Municipal Heritage Bylaw

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Catherine Kambeitz, Heritage and Design Coordinator
Reviewed by: Darryl Dawson, Manager, Development Review
Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services