

Request for Funding – IIHF 2025 World Junior Championships – Council Policy No. C03-007, Special Events

ISSUE

The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has requested Hockey Canada to build a hosting plan for the 2025 IIHF World Junior Championships. Discover Saskatoon is asking the City of Saskatoon (City) to consider supporting a bid to host this event. The support being requested is a one-time investment of \$500,000, subject to a successful bid, to contribute to the revenue targets required to successfully acquire this event for Saskatoon.

RECOMMENDATION

That funding, in the amount of \$500,000, to Discover Saskatoon be approved, under Council Policy C03-007, Special Events, to support the hosting of the 2025 World Junior Hockey Championships, pending:

- a) successful award of the bid to host the event; and
- b) submission of a detailed event application package.

BACKGROUND

Discover Saskatoon is requesting a one-time investment of \$500,000 from the City to contribute to the revenue targets required to successfully acquire this event for Saskatoon. A letter from Discover Saskatoon detailing the request is included (see Appendix 1). Funding requests are being made of other cities in the province, including the City of Regina. The organizing group has also reached out to the Province to request significant funding support as well.

City Council, at its Special [Meeting](#) on April 1, 2022, approved a request from Tourism Saskatoon, now Discover Saskatoon, for funding in the amount of \$350,000 to support the hosting of the 2023 World Junior Hockey Championships subject to the successful award of the bid to host the event. This request resulted from the decision by IIHF to withdraw their previous approval for Russia to host the 2023 World Junior Hockey Championships. Saskatoon was not awarded the bid and funding was not required.

Discover Saskatoon and their partners at Saskatoon Entertainment Group will be required to submit a business plan to Hockey Canada by Monday, April 24, 2023. Partners in Regina have been engaged and will be participating in a collaborative business plan development process. The business plan request requires confirmation of funding from all levels of government. The cities of Regina and Saskatoon have a proven track record in hosting this event, with the 2010 World Juniors being one of the strongest producing events in Hockey Canada's history. The event in 2010 left many legacies for the community and hockey organizations in Saskatoon and Regina.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

According to City of Saskatoon [Council Policy C03-007, Special Events](#), the 2025 World Junior Hockey Championship would be eligible for funding and satisfies the requirements outlined in the policy. Similar to the event in 2010, Administration is confident the 2025 event would be consistent with the objectives of the policy, as follows:

- Attract visitors to Saskatoon, and in so doing will generate significant economic benefit for the community;
- Enhance the profile and visibility of Saskatoon, nationally and internationally;
- Enhance community spirit and pride; and
- Develop an awareness, understanding and appreciation of art, culture and recreation.

Similar to the 2010 World Juniors event, this funding request falls within the Special Event category as a sport event. Using the 2010 World Juniors event application package as a reference point, this event is anticipated to fully meet the eligibility requirements of this type of event and meet scoring criteria to warrant funding beyond the current grant maximum amount of \$200,000.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If approved, \$500,000 will be paid from the Reserve for Major Special Events. The current uncommitted balance in the reserve is \$629,800; therefore, the reserve has sufficient funds to support this request.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations. A communications plan is not required at this time. Discover Saskatoon will take the lead on all future communications and information for the event and bid to host the event.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to approval by the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Development and Community Services, which has delegated authority to approve the funding request, Administration will inform Discover Saskatoon of committee's decision. Discover Saskatoon will subsequently submit a complete special event application package for review by the Adjudication Committee upon award of this bid.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice, pursuant to Section 3 of the City of Saskatoon [Council Policy C01-021, Public Notice](#), is not required.

APPENDICES

1. Discover Saskatoon Letter: IIHF 2025 World Junior Championships

Report Approval

Written by: Andrew Roberts, Director Recreation and Community Development

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services