

2025 Recreation and Community Development Tax Abatements

ISSUE

The review of applications for the Recreation and Sport Tax Abatement Program, Assistance to Community Groups Social Services Program and the Culture Grant Program have been completed. The recommendation for provision of tax abatements to qualified organizations is included in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that tax abatements totaling \$1,076,040.34, for groups deemed eligible under the Recreation and Sport Tax Abatement Program, Assistance to Community Groups Social Services Program and the Culture Grant Program, be approved, as outlined in the report of the Community Services Division, dated May 7, 2025.

BACKGROUND

Recreation and Community Development Department provides a variety of supports to Recreation, Sport, Social Service and Culture organizations. A tax abatement is one way for the City of Saskatoon (City) to help support non-profit organizations which contribute to quality of life for Saskatoon residents. There are three (3) funding support programs in Recreation and Community Development that allow for tax abatements, which are included in this report to streamline City Council's approval process.

The Recreation and Sport Tax Abatement Program was approved by City Council in 2022, and supports organizations that further goals and objectives of the [Recreation and Parks Master Plan](#). Applications are assessed internally by Administration. Tax abatements are recommended to applicants which meet program criteria pursuant to [Council Policy C03-038, Recreation and Sport Tax Abatement Program Policy](#).

The Assistance to Community Groups Social Services Program (Social Services Program) is administered as part of the Saskatoon Collaborative Funders Partnership, which is a collaboration between the City's Social Services Grant Program and the United Way Community Initiatives Fund. Applications are reviewed by the Social Services Subcommittee (Subcommittee), appointed by recommendation of the Governance and Priorities Committee. The Subcommittee reviews applications from non-profit social services organizations pursuant to [Council Policy C03-018, Assistance to Community Groups Policy](#), ensuring policy objectives are met.

The Culture Grant and Support Program (Culture Program), created in 1997, supports cultural organizations in Saskatoon and recognizes their role in providing cultural activities for Saskatoon residents and visitors, as well as contributions made to quality

of life and economic prosperity of the city. The Culture Program provides support to organizations through cash grants and/or approved tax abatements. Applications are assessed internally by Administration. Tax abatements are recommended to applicants who have met the program eligibility criteria.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

There were six (6) eligible applications to the 2025 Recreation and Sport Tax Abatement Program. All six (6) of these applications met the program eligibility criteria. A total of \$151,353.78 in tax abatements is recommended (see Appendix 1). The 2025 Operating Budget includes \$200,000 in eligible funding for this program.

The Subcommittee reviewed 18 applications eligible for a tax abatement from the Social Services Program and are recommending a total of \$743,599.50 in tax abatements. Applicants reapply each year, allowing the Subcommittee to review current and proposed activities ensuring applicants continue to meet the criteria and objectives identified within Council Policy C03-018, Assistance to Community Groups. The 2025 Operating Budget includes \$728,000 in eligible funding for this program.

There are six (6) culture organizations who own property and are eligible for a tax abatement under the culture funding support program. A total of \$181,087.06 in tax abatements is recommended. Organizations in this program are long-standing recipients of tax abatements and are recognized as such by the Government of Saskatchewan. The 2025 Operating Budget includes \$203,100 in eligible funding for this program.

As the recommendation for approval of tax abatements is related directly to the City's and the Library's component of the property taxes, Administration also submits applications for the Education Property Tax Abatement to the Government of Saskatchewan. This is done every three (3) years for organizations in these programs with education taxes of more than \$25,000 per year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 Recreation and Sport Tax Abatement program, Social Tax Abatement and Culture Tax Abatement programs have approved operating funding of \$1,131,100, included in the 2025 Operating Budget. The tax abatements recommended in this report total \$1,076,040.34. Therefore, sufficient funding exists in the 2025 Operating Budget to support the recommendation in this report.

Tax abatements are budgeted in the annual operating budget based on information available at the time of preparing the budget. Variances could result if there are significant factors, such as change in assessments, change in the number of eligible groups or timing of abatements. These will be identified in the 2025 year-end variance reporting.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social or environmental implications to consider.

NEXT STEPS

Pending approval by City Council, final notification of tax abatement decisions will be sent to all applicants by June 15, 2025.

APPENDICES

1. 2025 Recreation and Community Development City and Library Tax Abatement Estimates

REPORT APPROVAL

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