

Delegation: Kyle Clifford, President, Gabriola Recreation Society, re 2019 Budget Request

Summary: The Gabriola Recreation Society (GRS) provides recreation services to the resident population of Gabriola (est. 4,100 people). Originally these services were provided directly by the Regional District of Nanaimo with a staff person commuting regularly to the Island. However it was felt a more cost-effective method to provide such services was to set up a volunteer board, the GRS, with a core budget to hire a part time programmer with a small office on the Island.

Over the years the core budget has not increased but the demand for services has. The GRS has attempted to supplement staffing on the Island through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program. However this has covered only the wages of a high school level position.

By adding this \$8,000 to our core budget, we remove it from the uncertainty and restrictions of CSJ grants, and create a meaningful job that would be open to the most capable person, student or not. The community is sorely in need of more good jobs.

We would be able to pay the wage at a rate comparable to the RDN, rather than continuing to pay the current low wage we have had for many years. The wage is no longer enticing for an experienced candidate.

Without this funding, GRS will have to cut back on other services. Our budget is very tight, and we are attempting to expand our new low income access program, grants-in-aid fund, and support of community events.

This funding would enable us to set our own deadline for hiring to this position to more effectively assist with early program planning and better overall set-up. It would also be a benefit to have more flexibility in this person's hours and work load, and not be tied to CSJ limitations.

Action Requested: The Gabriola Recreation Society (GRS) is requesting an \$8,000 increase in our budget allocation from the RDN for 2019. The funds are to be specifically targeted towards wages for a summer coordinator position. The GRS is requesting support for this increase from the RDN Committee of the Whole.

The 5 minute briefing to the RDN Committee will include an overview of the GRS, the services it provides to the residents of Gabriola and how the GRS is an extension of the RDN's recreation program services.