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**REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013**

SUBJECT

INFORMATION REPORT ON GROUP 2 FUNDING

ISSUE

This report provides information on group 2 funding to date.

BACKGROUND

At the Arts Committee meeting of June 12, 2013 a memorandum was circulated summarizing the discussions of a working group. Its purpose was to discuss the options for increasing the level of group 2 funding and to provide a recommendation to the Arts Committee.

The working group proposed changing a group 2 municipality's contribution level to be equivalent to 30% of their respective group 1 funding. It was agreed that Arts Committee members would take this proposal to their individual councils for support. The memorandum noted that all Arts Service member municipalities would need to support the proposal in order to ensure the passage of the revised bylaw by the Capital Regional District Board.

Over the summer it was reported that Highlands Council supported the proposal and that Metchosin Council supported the proposal provided there was an option to reach the 30% level in increments over a three-year period. On July 15, the Chair of the Arts Advisory Council made a presentation to Sidney Council providing information in support of the proposal. Sidney Council committed to further discussing the issue at the October 2013, council planning meeting.

COMMENTS

Clarification is needed as to whether Highlands and Metchosin will increase to the 30% level regardless of changes to the bylaw or whether increasing to the 30% level depends on changes to the bylaw.

It would be inadvisable to draft changes to the bylaw before the support of all current participants is known.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If bylaw changes to group 2 contribution levels remain on hold, financial planning for 2014 will proceed per status quo. If any current group 2 municipalities wish to increase towards the 30% level in advance of bylaw changes then the Capital Regional District, Finance will calculate the appropriate levels and inform the group 2 municipalities as necessary. The latter situation would provide a small funding increase and require a decision by the Arts Committee on its allocation e.g. to operating or project funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received for information.

James Lam
Manager, Arts Development Service