



Report Number: EC2025-0422

Meeting: Executive Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: 2025 April 15

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: NoM - Adequately Funding the Ward Community Event Fund

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Jennifer Wyness

WHEREAS The Council Strategic Initiative Fund was created in 2003 to provide external ad hoc funding for initiatives that support the goals and priorities of Council. Previous CSIF guidelines allocated 28% or \$140,000 to a community stream that provided funding for groups to host events or initiatives that enhance their communities. In 2012, the Ward Community Event Fund was carved out of CSIF as a separate fund that was managed by the Alderman Office Coordinating Committee.

WHEREAS The WCEF has continued to be funded at \$140,000 since 2003 and managed by Council Services, City Clerks Office.

WHEREAS This fund enables hundreds of community events across the city each year that bring communities together and are enjoyed by thousands of Calgarians.

WHEREAS With 208 community associations alone in Calgary, the current budget of \$140,000 and \$10,000 per Ward allows only \$673 per community association and does not include the many other organizations that request WCEF funding. In 2024, community groups funding requests far exceeded the allocation and totaled \$320,713 or \$1,715 per event while the average amount approved per request was \$667. The budget for this fund is inadequate to meet the number of applications and funding requests received.

WHEREAS While community groups utilize other sources of revenues such as user fees and grants, the WCEF funds are a valuable source of funding to enable groups to build community connections and activate public spaces.

AND WHEREAS The Council Innovation Fund has been under-utilized and has a current balance of \$815,875 with applications pending approval.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That Council approves a budget transfer of \$520,875 from the Council Innovation Fund to increase the 2025 WCEF allocation by \$37,205 per ward, for a total annual budgetary allocation from the WCEF of \$47,205 for 2025 per Ward.
2. That Council direct administration to budget for an increase the WCEF annual funds to \$50,000 per Ward as part of the 2026-2029 budget cycle.

Text