

**Mayor's Office Report to
Priorities and Finance Committee
2018 June 05**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
PFC2018-0721
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Council Innovation Fund Application

Council Sponsor: Councillor Peter Demong, Ward 14

Internal Sponsor(s): One Calgary Program Team, Finance

Name of Project: Improving Budget Transparency

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillor for Ward 14, Peter Demong, is sponsoring an application to the Council Innovation Fund ("CIF") with the cooperation and support of the One Calgary Program Team and The City of Calgary's Finance business unit to improve budget transparency and communications during the One Calgary program which is developing The City of Calgary's 2019-2022 business plans and budgets. Councillor Demong is requesting a withdrawal of \$150,000 to support several measures to improve the transparency of how citizens' tax dollars are spent and enhanced public communications during the One Calgary process. The funds would be utilized over the next several months and fund online tools such as an improved property tax calculator, enhance current communication channels like the property tax bill and support improved communications and marketing of the One Calgary process (see Attachment 1 & Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommends that Council accept the application for information; and
2. That the Priorities and Finance Committee consider this application for Council to utilize the Council Innovation Fund for the Improving Budget Transparency in the amount of \$150,000 and make a recommendation to Council.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, DATED 2018 JUNE 05:

That Council:

1. Accept the application for information; and
2. Approve the application for Council to utilize the Council Innovation Fund for the Improving Budget Transparency in the amount of \$150,000.

Excerpts from the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Priorities and Finance Committee, Held 2018 June 05:

"And further, that Report PFC2018-0721 be forwarded to the 2018 June 18 Strategic Meeting of Council."

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

As part of the 2010 November deliberations on the 2011 budget, Council established the CIF and directed Administration to develop Terms of Reference for the fund and create criteria that would guide Council on withdrawals request from the CIF. The Terms of Reference (see attachment 3) were adopted in March 2011 and are based on the following:

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- The project will contribute to Council's goals and has potential City-wide application;
- The project is innovative or a pilot project or experiment that proposes a new or different way of doing The City's work.

Successful applications must provide detailed documentation and address one of the following:

- a) One-time start up or "seed" funds for initiatives or programs which will support or contribute to Council's priorities.
- b) Pilot projects or experiments that have potential to change city-wide policies and procedures.

Any Council member(s) can submit an application to the Priorities and Finance Committee for review and consideration and ultimately for Council consideration and approval. The proposal for funding must demonstrate credibility, fiscal responsibility and good management which will be important considerations in the evaluation of applications.

BACKGROUND

Currently there is \$1,310,450 remaining in the CIF.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

See Attachment 1 & 2 for more details.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

See Attachment 1 & 2 for more details.

Strategic Alignment

See Attachment 1 & 2 for more details.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

See Attachment 1 & 2 for more details.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

See Attachment 1 & 2 for more details.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

This would draw down the CIF by \$150,000 - See Attachment 1 & 2 for more details.

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Risk Assessment

The Terms of Reference for the CIF have been developed to support a wide variety of candidate projects. Councillors retain the discretion to develop and support applications to the CIF and Council retains the discretion and final decision-making power over withdrawals from the fund.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Councillor Demong is requesting a \$150,000 withdrawal from the Council Innovation Fund to support improving budget transparency and communications during the One Calgary Program which is developing The City of Calgary's 2019-2022 four-year business plans and budgets. This request has the support and cooperation of the One Calgary Program Team and The City of Calgary's Finance Business Unit.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – Councillor Peter Demong's CIF Application: Improving Budget Transparency
2. Attachment 2 – Improving Budget Transparency presentation - prepared by One Calgary
3. Attachment 3 – City Manager Report – Council Innovation Fund Terms of Reference (Policy Interpretation) PAC2011-05 - 2011 March 01