



## Corporation of the Township of Brock

### Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Non-Profit Sector Advisory Committee

**Position:** Committee of Council

**Title / Subject:** Exemption to the Support for Community Organization Policy

**Date of Report:** April 28, 2025

**Date of Meeting:** April 28, 2025

**Report No:** 2025-TED-003

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#### 1.0 Issue / Origin

During the April 8<sup>th</sup> Non-Profit Sector Advisory Committee (NPSAC) meeting, members identified concerns from community groups relating to the cost of portable toilets for large events.

#### 2.0 Background

The Support for Community Organizations Policy, originally approved by Council on September 9, 2024, outlines provisions for non-profit and community groups to request the use of portable toilets already stationed at municipal facilities for their events. While the municipality can assist in arranging additional portable toilets and/or handwashing stations, the cost of these services—as well as any servicing of existing units—must currently be covered by the requesting community organization or non-profit group.

#### 3.0 Analysis-

At the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the NPSAC recognized the financial challenges many local community groups are facing when organizing large-scale events, particularly on Canada Day. These celebrations often draw significantly larger crowds and require additional sanitation facilities to ensure public health and safety. The committee acknowledged that the cost burden for extra portable toilets can discourage community participation or limit the scale of these events.

As a result, the NPSAC passed a motion recommending that, on an annual basis, community festivals held on July 1 be granted an exemption to the current policy. Under this exemption, the municipality would cover the cost of renting portable toilets specifically for Canada Day

community events organized by non-profit groups. This proposed amendment aims to support community engagement, reduce financial strain on organizers, and ensure proper facilities are available during one of the most widely attended celebrations of the year.

The Township has since received letters from both the Beaverton and Cannington Lions Clubs, expressing support for an exemption from the policy to help reduce the financial burden on their organizations for their Canada Day celebration events. Both letters have been attached as supporting documents.

### Staff Analysis

Staff feel obligated to provide input to this advisory committee report to Council as it does have an impact with respect to budget as well as setting precedence for other community groups holding other events with significant community engagement.

Non-profit community organizations such as the Beaverton and Cannington Lions, or other similar organizations that host community events that draw significant attraction, are vital to a small municipality such as Brock, as they provide a value to hosting events, where the municipality does not have the resources to do so.

Supporting these community organizations is a fine balance, that staff manage while attempting to provide assistance through reduced or free rent, in-kind services or waiving fees, and maintaining a fiduciary responsibility.

In this accord, the Support for Community Organizations Policy was adopted by Council and an internal staff committee, Support for Community Organizations Committee (SCOC), was formed to review, approve and track all community organization requests. As part of the policy there are expenses that the SCOC are not able to provide, such as additional portable toilets, that would an increase to the annual approved budget.

Staff do appreciate the operating challenges and expenses that the non-profit community organizations face when hosting large scale events. However, it should be noted that many of these community organizations (including the Beaverton and Cannington Lions) run lottery schemes each year to help offset the costs for running these events. The costs for additional portable toilets would be an eligible lottery expense and should be paid for through lottery proceeds.

## **4.0 Related Policies / Procedures**

F19 - Support for Community Organizations Policy.

## **5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment**

The financial impact of providing portable toilets for community events can be significant, especially when considering the costs associated with both standard and accessible units. Standard portable toilets are priced at \$183.75 each, while accessible units, which are

required to accommodate individuals with disabilities, cost \$262.50 each, these rates are based on 2024 pricing.

Staff also advise that there may also be additional costs that come with the request for additional portable toilets, as the large-scale events often include a request for handwashing stations.

The costs mentioned above would be in addition to the amount already allocated in our budget for portable toilets in the parks. Staff did not budget for this expense in planning for 2025 budget.

## **5.1 Asset Management**

This report has no direct impact on asset management.

## **6.0 Climate Change Impacts**

With the delivery and maintenance, there is a minor impact on climate change as it relates to portable toilets, given the emissions used by the trucks.

## **7.0 Communications**

This report is published on a public agenda.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

In conclusion, should Council support the NPSAC's request to provide an exemption to the Support for Community Organization policy to allow the Township to provide portable toilets for any Canada Day celebrations, it should be fully aware that the decision will set precedence and will increase budget.

## **9.0 Recommendation**

Be It Resolved That report number 2025-TED-003 Exemption to the Support for Community Organization Policy be received; and

That Council approve the permanent exemption for the provision of portable toilets for Canada Celebrations within the Township of Brock; and

That F-19 Support for Community Organization Policy be amended to include the provision of portable toilets to Community Organizations for Canada Day Events happening on July 1 within the Township of Brock

Or

That Council respectfully deny the request of providing portable toilets for Canada Day events within the Township of Brock.