



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MR# 2019033

DATE: 21 May 2019

RE: Amherst town council approves community support grant spending

AMHERST, Nova Scotia – Amherst town council approved spending \$482,110 on community support grants during a special council session on May 21.

Of that fund, \$372,110, will be raised via a residential, resource and commercial community support area rate of 7.1 cents per \$100 of assessment.

The money raised by the area rate will be used to fund the community support grants issued by council during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, including those given to organizations and granted to groups via the "A" Fresh Start Initiative. It will also be used to cover a \$100,000 grant to the YMCA, fund the tax exemption and tax reduction policies as well as the "A" Festival, holiday events, Canada Day, the winter carnival and other events such as Music in Victoria Square and the Tree for Boston.

The remaining \$110,000 - \$60,000 from reserves and \$50,000 from the deed transfer tax - will fund the well-respected Youth Free Ice Time Project and efforts by the town to deal with poverty.

Tax Reduction Policy amendment

Council approved an amendment to its Tax Reduction Policy that ensures homeowners meeting the low-income threshold who are in arrears who have paid their tax payment arrangement for at least 12 consecutive months qualify for the \$450 tax reduction.



Community Support Grants

Community support grants totaling slightly more than \$83,500 were approved by council. Those receiving grants are:

Amherst Little League Baseball Assoc.	\$ 1,500
Amherst Little League T-Ball Baseball	500
Autumn House	10,000
Cumberland Early Intervention Program	500
Food Assistance Network	2,000
Cumberland County Museum	4,000
Seniors Safety Program	6,500
Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland	500
Amherst Artisan Gallery	400
Cumberland Health Care Auxiliary	500
Bordertown Biker Bash Committee	2,500
Canadian Cancer Society - Relay for Life	1,800
Cumberland County Museum	4,500
Fibre Arts Festival Society	2,500
LA Animal Shelter	360
Amherst Fire Fighters Association	5,000
Amherst Spartans U-18 Girls Team	250
Amherst Sport & Social League	500
Cumberland Y Service Club	2,000
Knights of Columbus	300
Phoenix Cheer & Tumbling Club	500
Showcase Productions	1,000
NS Health Authority Community Rehab	1,500
Amherst Legion Branch 10	2,000
Nova Scotia Community College	20,000
Amherst Community Christmas Dinner	1,500
Pay It forward Pantry	1,000
Maggie's Place	<u>10,000</u>
Total	\$83,610

Letters to these organizations outlining the amounts granted and the conditions, if any, will be sent out later this week.

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