



**ELECTORAL AREA A
RECREATION AND CULTURE
GRANT PROGRAM**

GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING

ELECTORAL AREA A RECREATION AND CULTURE GRANT PROGRAM PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

NOTE: Please read all the information provided before completing your application.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee representing the communities of Cedar, Cassidy, South Wellington, and parts of Yellowpoint has established a Grant Program that serves local community organizations providing recreation and culture services within Electoral Area A. The Program includes criteria to assist the Committee and RDN staff in reviewing and considering applications from a broad spectrum of opportunities.

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) plays an effective role of facilitation by providing grant programs to assist community organizations in the provision of services to residents throughout the region. These grant programs help to support a wide variety of services including programs, events, and special projects and initiatives offered throughout the communities, and enhance the overall service delivery provided by the RDN.

Any local, non-profit organization is eligible for funding; charitable status is not required. Private or commercial organizations are not eligible.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To provide funds to assist local, non-profit organizations offering recreation and culture programs, special events or projects, which benefit specific communities (Cassidy, Yellowpoint, South Wellington, Cedar) or Electoral Area A, serving either specific age/gender categories including preschool, children, youth adult and seniors or combined age/gender categories.

BUDGET

The Committee, in concert with RDN staff, recommends the annual apportionment for the overall Grant Program through the RDN budget process with final approval from the Regional Board.

Funding of a maximum of \$10,000 per year is disbursed upon Regional Board approval. When making your application, please remember that the objective is to assist as many local organizations as possible. Larger funding requests may be considered at the Committee's discretion and must also be approved through the Regional Board before disbursement.

Any unallocated grant funding may be carried over to the next budget year at the Board's discretion.

ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM

1. The Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee will review the applications and make funding recommendations to the Regional Board for approval.
2. The Committee may disburse approximately 1/2 (\$5,000.00) of the program funding available during each of the application terms; although, if deemed appropriate by the Committee and based on the nature of the proposal, larger expenditures, per term, may be recommended if funds are available.
3. All applicants will be notified regarding approval status; if approved, successful applicants should receive funding within 3 weeks of Regional Board approval.
4. The Committee will ensure, depending on the receipt of applications, that each community (Cassidy, South Wellington, Cedar and Yellowpoint) is equitably represented throughout the year and that a wide range of grant recipients including recreation/parks, sports, arts, and culture are represented in the selection process.
5. Successful grant recipients will be required to provide a summary final report outlining the overall intent and outcome of the program, event, or project, to include a budget of revenues and expenditures specifically identifying the RDN grant funding within the overall budget. Copies of receipts for purchases pertaining to the Grant funding are required upon submission of the final report.

The final report must be submitted to the Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee within 60 days of project completion. If the Report is not forthcoming the Committee will inquire about the funding and may require the recipients to return the funding. Failure to provide a written report may result in future applications being denied. Formal agreements may be required depending on the nature of the application.

6. Successful grant recipients must begin using the funds for the approved purposes within six months of receiving the funds. Grant funding must be used for the sole purpose(s) as described in the application or the funds shall be returned to the Regional District.
7. Late submissions may be considered at the discretion of the staff and the Committee depending on timing, priorities, and available funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Applications can be submitted at any time during the year, however there are two deadlines to allow for the timely review of applications:
 - The last Friday in February for services/events/projects occurring July 1-December 31
 - The last Friday in September for services/events/projects occurring January 1-June 30

***Please note the overall process takes approximately 3½ months from submission of application to receiving the funding.**

2. Once submitted, the Committee will review the applications at the next scheduled meeting and make recommendations for final approval through the Regional Board.
3. Applicants **must** complete an application form included with this package.
4. For an application to be considered, it cannot be longer than **7 pages** including the application form.
5. Additional information provided via a word processing program must be at least **11-point** font size.
6. **No staples** please – your application will be photocopied for the Committee members.
7. Completed application forms clearly marked “**Electoral Area A Recreation and Culture Grant Program**” must be delivered via email or in a sealed envelope to:

Attention: **Administrative Associate, Recreation and Parks**
Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture
Regional District of Nanaimo
830 West Island Highway, Parksville,
BC, V9T 6N2
Fax: 250-248-3159
recparks@rdn.bc.ca

FUNDING CRITERIA

1. Funding will be considered for organizations providing **recreation and culture** services in any of the following:
 - new programs
 - expansion of current programs
 - leadership development
 - new or expanded special events
 - special projects

2. When selecting grants higher priority may be given to the following applications:
 - representative of Electoral Area A wide opportunities
 - representative of specific Electoral Area communities
 - offering services to a wide range and number of participants
 - new programs, events, projects may have preference over on-going annual programs, events, projects
3. Groups may apply for funding each term and each year; however, **the intent of Grant funding is not to subsidize on-going, annual programs and projects**. When making applications, applicants must understand that funding is not guaranteed year to year and to plan accordingly. **Organizations must consider long term sustainability and ensure each of the programs or projects can become self-supporting.**
4. Only non-profit groups qualify for funding.
5. Projects must be unique in nature – not duplicating services already provided in the community unless a demand can be demonstrated.
6. Demonstration of community support for the program, event, or project, as measured by community participation, volunteer involvement, involvement from other community partners, and commitment from other funding sources as applicable.
7. Evidence of benefit to the community.
8. Evidence of sound program, event or project management and fiscal responsibility.
9. Funds cannot be used to support ongoing wages of regular staff or other professional fees; **however, costs associated with subsidizing honorariums to support program instructors may be considered.**
10. As a general guideline the amount requested cannot be greater than 50% of the total budget for the program, event, or project. Larger disbursements may be considered at the Committee's discretion.
11. Commitment outlined regarding public recognition of the Regional District of Nanaimo / Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee contribution in applicable marketing and promotional materials.
12. Groups applying for more than one program, event or project may be considered depending on the availability of funding.
13. Projects receiving funding from the Regional District of Nanaimo Community Grant Program **will not** be eligible for additional funding from the Electoral Area A Recreation and Culture Grant Program.
14. The Grant Program **may include capital items** depending on the nature of the funding request. **However, the Grant Program excludes requests for repairs, maintenance or capital improvements to community operated buildings or halls.** These types of requests should be directed to funding that may be provided by the Electoral Area Community Parks function.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Administrative Associate, Recreation and Parks,
250-248-3252

recparks@rdn.bc.ca

830 W. Island Hwy., Parksville, B.C.
V9P 2X4