



REQUEST FOR DECISION

File # 8100-20

Report To: Mayor and Council
From: Director of Community Services
Presenter: Naomi Gallant
Subject: Administration Report No. 0022/23
Community Awards Exploration
Meeting: Regular Council
Meeting Date: 13 Feb 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

"THAT, Council postpone the Community Awards program for 2023 to allow staff and the Community Awards Committee time to explore new program ideas,
AND THAT, Council direct Staff to provide recommendations to Council in the fall of 2023 for future events."

CAO'S COMMENTS:

This report proposes postponement of the Community awards program for 2023 to allow for the research and exploration of new ideas to increase engagement, relevance and value for money.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

"THAT, Council receives Administration Report No. 0022/23 - Community Awards Exploration for information,
AND THAT, no changes are made to the Community Awards program for 2023."

KEY ISSUES(S)/ CONCEPTS DEFINED:

At the COW Presentation on January 23, 2023, Administration Report No. 0002/23 Community Awards, staff discussed challenges faced by the current Community Awards program. Notable challenges were the engagement of the community in getting peer nominations for the awards, the number of community members who benefit from the awards

ceremony vs the associated cost and possible duplication of similar events in the community.

RELEVANT POLICY:

Council Committees Portfolio of Responsibilities Policy No. 30/22

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC GOALS:

Goal No. 3 - Build and manage civic assets and human resources that support the current and future needs of the community.

Goal No. 5 - Continue to invest in community social, cultural and recreational assets and programs to provide an inclusive, vibrant, livable Fort St. John.

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

3.4 Foster a safe, caring community

5.2 Celebrate and promote the unique and culturally diverse history and heritage of our community

5.4 Foster community pride and sense of belonging through instigation participation and support of community events

GENERAL:

Several suggestions were discussed at the January 23, 2023 COW in regards to Administration Report No. 0002/23 Community Awards. The suggestions and ideas put forward by Council impact many City departments and involve exploring connections and partnerships with community organizations. Event impacts and ideas should be discussed with other City departments and community groups. Staff feel the timeline for proper feedback and engagement is too short for a significant change to the 2023 Community Awards event. Staff recommends postponing the 2023 event in favour of researching possible suggestions and ideas to be implemented in 2024.

ORGANIZATIONAL: Possible budget and capacity impacts to City departments need to be explored before making major changes to the Community Awards program.

FINANCIAL: Allowing the time to examine possibilities, goals and outcomes for

this program ensures that staff are investing budget dollars impactfully.

FOLLOW UP ACTION:

Staff will continue working with the Councillors identified in the Council Committee Portfolio of Responsibilities Policy in reference to Community Awards. Together they will research the suggested ideas of a;

- | Community gathering,
- | Combining Community Awards with other city events,
- | Block party,
- | Municipal days, or
- | Event in the park.

Staff will examine the benefits and impacts of any suggestions involving;

- | City departments,
- | Community organizations,
- | Local business,
- | Outreach groups and other government agencies,
- | Partnering with other organizations, and
- | Volunteer involvement.

The committee will evaluate the award categories, the choosing of the recipients and the presentation of the awards to ensure the awards align with the goals and future realization of the program.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Staff will consult with community organizations and explore the possibilities of a new Community Awards format.

COMMUNICATION:

DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED ON THIS REPORT:

No other departments have been consulted at this time. Staff will be consulting City wide if a municipal event with other City departments is considered in combination with Community Awards.

Attachments:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
Naomi Gallant, Community Development Coordinator
24 Jan 2023