
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CDP-09-2022 Community Halls Pandemic Relief Reconciliation 2021 and 2022



For Consideration by Council in Committee on June 21, 2022

OBJECTIVE:

To obtain Council approval to provide final, reconciled, pandemic-associated reimbursements to Community Halls Boards of Directors for operating costs incurred at County-owned buildings during 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. This will be the last pandemic related reconciliation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-09-2022 Community Halls Pandemic Relief Reconciliation 2021 and 2022 be received;
2. AND THAT the volunteer Boards of Directors managing Haldimand County's Community Halls be reimbursed for actual operating costs for 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, less 65% of any rental revenues received during that period, to an upset amount of \$61,000;
3. AND THAT reimbursement payments be funded from the provincial Safe Restart Program grant;
4. AND THAT ongoing pandemic-associated reimbursements, having been reconciled, be discontinued as of costs incurred to March 31, 2022 given the lifting of provincial operating restrictions at community facilities.

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Reviewed by: Katrina Schmitz, Manager, Community Development & Partnerships

Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Haldimand County's 18 Community Halls, managed and maintained by volunteer Boards of Directors, have been largely unable to generate revenue to pay for ongoing operating costs since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020.

In 2020 and 2021, through reports CDP-08-2020, CDP-02-2021, and CDP-06-2021, Council directed staff to reimburse the Halls Boards for ongoing actual/fixed operating costs associated with maintaining the facilities in a good state of repair. In 2020, \$48,787.85 was reimbursed and in the first half of 2021 \$47,967.53 was reimbursed to Hall Boards. The subject report deals with the second half of 2021 and first quarter of 2022, which will bring the program to a close.

At this time, staff are recommending that all pandemic relief payments be concluded as of March 31, 2022 as operations of these facilities has resumed without provincial restrictions, and that final payments be reconciled against actual costs less 65% of any revenue earned during the period.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2002, Haldimand County has partnered with volunteer Boards of Directors to operate and maintain municipally-owned Community Halls. Currently, there are 18 such Halls. Through the Community Halls Policy (2003-01), the Groups are responsible for all operations and enhancements to these municipal buildings. Haldimand County is responsible for capital repairs and replacements associated with the structural integrity of the Halls as well as legislated life/health/public safety matters. The Community Halls partnership model has worked well for the benefit of both the communities and the County.

The ongoing pandemic situation has continued to be extremely challenging for the Community Halls operators as provincial mandates have resulted in extensive periods of complete shutdown and varying restrictions since March 2020. Many Halls have had little to no opportunity to earn revenue.

Since March 21, 2022 all provincial pandemic restrictions associated with operating community centres have been lifted and Halls groups are finding the public is gradually feeling comfortable enough to gather indoors.

ANALYSIS:

In 2020 and 2021, Council approved reimbursements to Halls Boards for the fixed/actual operating costs to maintain the facilities, less 65% of any rental revenue that was able to be generated. This ratio is in keeping with the principles of the Community Partnership Program grants (35% County contribution to 65% contribution from the community group).

In the nine months of pandemic restrictions in 2020, pandemic relief payments totalled \$48,787.85; for the first six months of 2021, \$47,967.53 was reimbursed.

The current report addresses reimbursements for the second half of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, representing a final reconciliation of the financial assistance provided to the Halls during the pandemic. The recommended reimbursement of \$60,500.45 would bring the program total to \$157,255.83.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Community Development & Partnerships Division staff have continued working with Community Halls groups to confirm actual fixed costs from the beginning of 2021 through the first quarter of 2022. Many Halls have reported no revenue, while some have been fortunate to host meetings or programming to generate resources. Each Hall has been asked to report on revenue sources as well as provide actual utility/fixed cost bills or invoices for reimbursement.

The chart below illustrates the expenses and revenues for each of the Halls, as well as previous 2021 payment amounts and projected compensation amounts. (The majority of these amounts have been fully reconciled; however, in some cases groups are waiting for 2022 back-up documentation. Staff will ensure only reconciled actual amounts are reimbursed.)

Hall Name	Q3&Q4 2021 & 2022 Q1 Expenses	Revenue (65%)	Payments to Date 2021	Requested Reimbursement CDP-09-2022
Caledonia LIONS Community Centre Corporation	\$21,283.02	-\$1,121.25	-\$6,171.25	\$13,990.52
Canboro Community Centre	\$8,308.59	-\$666.25	-\$1,664.92	\$5,977.42

Canfield Community Centre	\$6,752.29	-\$731.25	-\$2,932.09	\$3,088.95
Cayuga Kinsmen Community Centre	\$9,627.17	-\$325.00	-\$4,553.17	\$4,749.00
Cayuga Seniors Drop-In Centre	The group receives legislated funding to cover its operating costs (80% Province; 20% County).			
Cheapside Community Hall	\$2,033.40	-\$191.75	-\$933.71	\$907.94
Dunnville Community Lifespan Centre	\$10,630.38	-\$631.15	-\$6,228.14	\$3,771.09
Fisherville District Lions Community Centre	\$13,694.48	-\$1,950.00	-\$6,425.46	\$5,319.02
George Shippey Music Centre	\$1,763.48	\$0.00	-\$669.45	\$1,094.03
Hagersville Community Centre	\$12,082.84	-\$2,784.60	-\$3,689.36	\$5,608.88
Haldimand Agricultural Community Centre Corporation	\$7,833.81	\$0.00	-\$3,052.29	\$4,781.52
Jarvis Lions Community Centre	\$9,187.53	-\$2,733.48	-\$2,879.59	\$3,574.46
Lowbanks Community Centre Corporation	\$3,280.00	\$0.00	-\$2,535.00	\$745.00
Nanticoke Community Hall	\$4,611.83	\$0.00	-\$1,928.37	\$2,683.46
Rainham Centre Community Hall	\$3,215.18	\$0.00	-\$2,006.04	\$1,209.14
Selkirk Centennial Community Centre	The group declined reimbursement; it collects rent from the Library that is sufficient to meet its operating costs.			
Seneca Centennial Hall Corporation	\$1,805.87	-\$16.25	-\$831.47	\$958.15
Townsend Lions Community Hall	\$3,572.47	-\$63.38	-\$1,467.22	\$2,041.87
Total:				\$60,500.45

The Council-approved 2022 Tax Supported Operating Budget does not include any funds related to these reimbursements. In October 2020, Haldimand County received approximately \$2.5 million in funding from the provincial Safe Restart Program (COVID-19 grant). The province's expectation was that any funds not utilized in 2020 would be applied to offset any additional costs in 2021; the reimbursement costs for the Halls would be funded from this Program.

The Community Halls reimbursement expenditures (\$60,500.45) will result in a negative variance in the Grants to Organizations line for the Community Development & Partnerships Division's Administrative cost centre. Corporately, the deficit or surplus for the Tax Supported Operating Budget is funded from or contributed to the Contingency Reserves.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

This report was prepared in consultation with staff from the Finance Division.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

None.