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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report CDS-07-2024 Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Recommended Application



For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 8, 2024

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### OBJECTIVE:

To obtain Council's support to submit an application to the Province's Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund for the Hagersville Active Living Centre.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDS-07-2024 Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Recommended Application, be received;
2. AND THAT an application be submitted to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund grant program in support of the Hagersville Active Living Centre project.

**Prepared and Respectfully submitted:** Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager, Community & Development Services

**Approved:** Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On August 19, 2024, the Ministry of Sport announced the application intake period for the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund. The \$200 million fund is open to municipalities and focuses on helping communities revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities. Staff are recommending an application be submitted for the current Hagersville Active Living Centre. If Council supports the staff recommendation, an application package will be put together and submitted through the Ministry's portal.

### BACKGROUND:

The Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) was first introduced as part of the 2024 Provincial budget. The CSRIF will invest up to \$200 million over 3 years to support municipalities, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations and (for new builds only) for-profit organizations through two program streams for projects that:

- repair or upgrade existing sport and recreation facilities (Stream 1, see hyperlink under the References section); and
- build new and transformative sport and recreation facilities (Stream 2, see hyperlink under the References section).

The CSRIF is a cost-shared program launched as part of the "2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario" (see hyperlink under the References section) to:

- foster healthier and more active lifestyle for families;

- make sport more accessible; and
- help more communities across the province host local, national and international sporting events and competitions.

The CSRIF application requires a Council resolution in support of a specific project. This report is intended to address that application requirement and staff is recommending a submission to Stream 2 (new builds) that covers the Hagersville Active Living Centre.

## **ANALYSIS:**

The Stream 2: New Builds/Signature New Builds (“Stream 2”) offers funding up to \$10 million (per project) to invest in new, transformative community sport and recreation infrastructure, including assets that do not currently exist in a community or the replacement of existing assets that have reached the end of their lifespan. Applications are now being accepted (program intake commenced August 19<sup>th</sup>) and will be accepted on an ongoing basis until all funding has been allocated.

Stream 2 consists of a comprehensive application process and consists of tight timelines for completion of projects. Specifically, an approved project must be completed, with all eligible project expenses incurred, no later than March 31, 2027. The application process also requires THE submission of things such as but not limited to:

- detailed project plans (site plan, architectural drawings);
- detailed project budgets;
- detailed project schedule, including demonstration of organizational capacity to complete the project;
- description of community and indigenous consultation and how feedback has been incorporated into the project; and
- description of how the project fills a service gap/addresses a community need.

After reviewing all recreation related initiatives that are on-going or proposed, staff have determined the Hagersville Active Living Centre is the project that responds best to all application requirements and represents the County’s greatest opportunity for success. In particular, the targeted completion of late 2025 would ensure that all eligible expenses are incurred prior to the program deadline (March 31, 2027), while the existing building/site plans, detailed budget, project schedule, and consultation records would all serve to adequately address key components of the application.

It should be noted that the focus of the funding program is on recreation. To that end, staff have consulted with a Ministry of Sport program advisor who has confirmed the library component of the Hagersville project would not be eligible for funding consideration. Also, the program advisor has confirmed that only expenses yet to be incurred on the project, at time of approval, would be eligible for funding consideration. Of those eligible expenses, any grant awarded would be to a maximum 50%. The project has already commenced and incurred some expenses. It is anticipated that there would be at least \$7 million in eligible project expenses (ALC portion only) remaining once staff submit the application in 4-6 weeks. However, if a grant is approved, it is expected that it will be based on the remaining eligible expenditures *at time of approval*. Ministry review and approval typically takes several months after submission. This will presumably reduce the amount compared to what is eligible at time of submission, since expenses will need to continue to be paid between now and then.

## **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The total approved capital budgets for the combined Hagersville Library and Active Living Centre project is \$16,603,330.00. Of this amount, a total of \$9,363,000.00 is attributed to the construction

portion of the Active Living Centre (ALC). At the time of writing this report, only \$222,249.28 of the ALC portion of the construction budget had been spent.

Should the County be successful in obtaining some level of funding through the application process, the funds would be utilized to offset construction costs of the ALC, reducing the amount of debenture funding required to finance the project. A subsequent report will be required to confirm the award of the funding and request the required budget revisions.

## **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

Not applicable.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

## **REFERENCES:**

1. Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) – [repair or upgrade existing sport and recreation facilities \(Stream 1\)](#).
2. Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) – [build new and transformative sport and recreation facilities \(Stream 2\)](#).
3. Provincial – [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#).

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

None.