



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

October 14, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Virginia McLeod, Manager of Recreation and Culture
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE: Provincial/National/International Competition Financial
Assistance Policy Updates

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request an increase to the amounts awarded to individuals and not-for-profit teams seeking financial assistance when qualifying for and attending national and international level sporting, miscellaneous or cultural competitions and to delegate the authority to approve applications for assistance to the relevant Committee of Council.

Background

The City provides funding to individuals or not-for-profit teams/groups who are residents of Sault Ste. Marie and/or those who are representing Sault Ste. Marie. There are three financial assistance programs that are administered and include:

1. National and International Sports Competitions
2. National and International Miscellaneous Competitions
3. Provincial, National and International Cultural Competitions

For both the Sports and Miscellaneous competitions, requests for financial assistance are considered from individuals or not-for-profit teams who are residents of Sault Ste. Marie and/or those who have qualified to represent Sault Ste. Marie, Northern Ontario, Ontario, or Canada at a national or international competition. Qualification must be through one or more previous local, regional, provincial, or national competitions. Therefore, invitational events do not qualify for funding. Coaching and management staff will not be considered among the team complement.

Requests for Provincial/National/International Cultural Competition Financial Assistance shall be considered from individuals, or not-for-profit cultural groups who have qualified to attend the competition and who are residents of Sault Ste. Marie and are active in culture as defined in the Cultural Policy for the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. Requests will not be considered for attendance at

Boards of Education or Post Secondary Education Institution Cultural Competitions at any level.

Financial Assistance applications are obtained from the Community Services Department, Recreation and Culture Division. Completed applications are accepted year-round due to the various dates of qualifying competitions. Applications are reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee or the Cultural Advisory Committee, who make a recommendation to approve. The request is then brought to City Council for final approval and distribution of funds.

Analysis

The amounts awarded have not been increased since 2002. Currently, the amounts granted to individuals and/or teams for sporting competition and miscellaneous competitions outlined in the two policies are as follows:

Individual	\$200
2 to 6 participants	\$400
7 to 15 participants	\$750
16+ participants	\$1,000

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee passed the following resolution at their meeting on September 9, 2025.

Resolved that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee endorse the increase in financial assistance provided to individuals and groups to attend national and international competitions as follows

<i>Individual</i>	<i>\$300</i>
<i>2 to 6 participants</i>	<i>\$600</i>
<i>7 to 15 participants</i>	<i>\$1150</i>
<i>16+ participants</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>

City staff are recommending that the increase in funds consistently be applied to all three types of competitions and that the policies be updated. Currently, Cultural competitions are awarded \$200 per application with special requests being considered where warranted.

The overall yearly budget would remain the same at \$5,000. Over the past 10 years, a total of \$5,350 has been awarded. The Parks and Recreation Advisory members requested that any unspent funds be transferred at the end of the year for future use. City staff are requesting that the remaining funds at year end would be transferred to the Recreation and Culture Reserve.

To streamline the process staff are requesting that all three policies be updated to eliminate the need for City Council approval. Once the appropriate committee has passed a resolution approving a grant, City staff would proceed with issuing payment. Applications will be acknowledged on the City's website once approved.

Financial Implications

It is anticipated that the current annual budget of \$5,000 will be sufficient to manage the grants based upon historical trends. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has requested that the unused funds be transferred to a reserve for potential higher requests in future years. As per the Reserve and reserve Fund Policy, a new reserve will be referred to the Chief Financial Officer for review.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This item supports the Corporate Strategic Plan Service Delivery Focus Area: Eliminate Barriers – Review Processes, policies and procedures to identify efficiencies.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture dated October 14, 2025, concerning Provincial/National/International Competition Financial Assistance Policy Updates be received and that amounts awarded for the National and International Sports Competitions, National and International Miscellaneous Competitions, and Provincial, National, and International Cultural Competitions be set as follows:

Individual	\$300
2 to 6 participants	\$600
7 to 15 participants	\$1150
16+ participants	\$1,500

and that the appropriate committees be delegated authority to approve grant applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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