



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, March 17, 2025 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.
The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet, (via teleconference)
Councillor T. McLennan, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

K. Thistle,
D. Gillard,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
T. Setta,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Mayor Alty read the Opening Statement.
2.	(For Information Only) Councillor Cochrane declared a conflict of interest with Item No. 7 on the agenda, an update regarding Giant Mine Remediation, due to his employment with Parsons Inc. as the Community Relations Officer for the Giant Mine Remediation Project.
3.	Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to adopt the recommendations set forth by the Grant Review Committee for the awarding of the 2025 Grant Funding and consideration for the 2025 - 2027 Multi-Year Funding Recipients.



Committee noted that on October 20, 2004, Council established the Grant Review Committee with a mandate to review and make recommendations to Council regarding the annual distribution of the Grant Funding.

The purpose of the Grant Review Committee is to assist the City of Yellowknife in an advisory capacity by making recommendations annually to Council through the Governance and Priorities Committee on which groups will receive Grant Funding and the amount of funding each group should receive.

The closing balance of the Community Grant Reserve for 2024 was \$27,800.00 .

2024	Budget
Budget	\$468,000.00
Multi -Year Funding (Committed in 2025) Year 3 payments	\$124,000.00
Multi-Year Funding (Committed in 2024) Year 2 payments	\$56,000.00
Recommended Allocate in 2025	\$315,500.00
Total	\$495,500.00
Allocate Community Grant Reserve	\$27,500.00
Remaining in Community Grant Reserve	\$300.00

If funding is approved as recommended by the Grant Review Committee, there will be \$311,000.00 committed to Multi-Year Funding and \$184,500.00 committed to one-time funding.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:
Grant Funding Policy.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:
Cities, Towns and Villages Act.

Procedural Considerations

The Community Services Department prepares written notices for the submission of applications sixty days prior to the deadline. These notices are advertised in the City's Capital Update flyer; on the City of Yellowknife's webpage, social media and on the electronic billboards located by the Multiplex and the intersection of Range Lake Road and Old Airport Road. In January of 2025, Administration reviewed each application to ensure that criteria were met and provided that information to the Grant Review Committee.



Legislative

Section 123 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* S.N.W.T., 2003 c.22 allows Council to authorize grants for purposes it considers will benefit residents of the municipality, this allocation cannot exceed 2% of total annual expenditures as set out in its annual budget.

Committee noted that during the 2025 budget deliberations, Council identified \$468,000.00 in funding for the Community Grant process. The Grant Review Committee received thirty-nine (39) applications with a total funding request of \$536,894.00. The Grant Review Committee met March 4, 2025 to review and deliberate on the applications and arrived at the recommendation presented to Council for considerations.

In keeping with the parameters of the Grant Funding and the Heritage Committee Funding Policies, one of the 39 applications was forwarded to the Heritage Committee for funding consideration.

Committee recommends that Council adopt the following recommendations presented by the Grant Review Committee:

1. To allocate \$27,500.00 from the Community Grant Reserve.
2. To award the 2025 Grant Funding as follows:

Multi-Year	Purpose of Funding	2025	2026	2027
Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife (AFCY)	Jeunesse TNO, Le theatre du 62e parallele	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Music Teachers Association of the NWT	Music Festival, Alumni Concerts, Music Sundays	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Northern Arts and Cultural Centre (NACC)	NACC Season Presentations	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
NWT Disabilities Council	Experience Summer	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Snowkings' Winter Festival Society	Winter Festival	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Yellowknife Playgroup Association	Indoor playgroup	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Yellowknife Ski Club	Ski and biathlon programming and events	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Previous Funding Groups		\$180,000.00	\$56,000.00	
Subtotal A		\$311,000.00	\$187,000.00	\$131,000.00



Sponsorship	Purpose of Funding	2025
Far North Photo Society	Photography Festival	\$10,000.00
Hockey NWT	Development programs for youth	\$10,000.00
NorthWords Writers Festival Society	Writers Festival	\$13,000.00
Old Town Community Association	The Old Town Ramble and Ride Festival	\$10,000.00
Steadily Deadly Society	Music Festival	\$2,500.00
Still Dark Festival	Music and Art Festival	\$8,000.00
The Ptarmicon Society	Multi-day Festival	\$10,000.00
Territorial Agrifood Association	Culinary Festival	\$10,000.00
Western Arctic Moving Pictures	Yellowknife International Film Festival	\$10,000.00
Subtotal B		\$83,500.00

Community Service	Purpose of Funding	2025
Ecology North	Earth Week & Other Events	\$4,000.00
Food Rescue Yellowknife	Ongoing	\$10,000.00
Inclusion Northwest Territories	Summer Program	\$10,000.00
Makerspace YK	Programs, Projects & Events	\$10,000.00
Music NWT	Workshops & Showcasing	\$4,000.00
NWT Badminton Association	Tournament and Athlete Development	\$4,000.00
NWT Judo Association	Accessible Programing	\$4,000.00
NWT Literacy Council	Community Connection Program	\$9,000.00
Special Olympics NWT	Recreational Programing	\$10,000.00
Yellowknife Choral Society 2003	Aurora Choralis & Fireweed Children's Chorus Performances	\$7,500.00
Yellowknife Climbing Club	Programing	\$1,000.00
Yellowknife Gymnastics Club	Programing	\$10,000.00
Yellowknife Live Action Roleplay	Live Action Roleplay Events	\$1,000.00
Yellowknife Search and Rescue	Training for Volunteers	\$2,500.00
Yellowknife Tennis Club	Clubhouse Storage and Expansion, McNiven Beach	\$4,000.00
Yellowknife Ukrainian Association	Aurora Art Studio	\$10,000.00
Subtotal C		\$101,000.00

MOVE APPROVAL



4. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to approve the recommendations of the City of Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness to allocate funding for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.**

Committee noted that Reaching Home – Canada’s Strategy to End Homelessness is a federal program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to designated communities (urban centres), Indigenous communities, territorial communities and rural and remote communities across Canada.

As a Community Entity for this program the City of Yellowknife holds a 4-year funding agreement with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada and has received the following amounts in funding for this four -year agreement.

2024-2025	\$3,366,999.00
2025-2026	\$3,366,999.00
2026-2027	\$3,366,999.00
2027-2028	\$3,366,999.00

Committee noted that Council’s policies, resolutions or goals include:

Strategic Direction #1:	People First
Focus Area 1.2	<u>Housing for All</u> Doing our part to create the context for diverse housing and accommodations options.
Key Initiative 1.2.1	Setting the context and foundations for a fulsome continuum of housing options, from social to market to workforce accommodations.
Key Initiative 1.3.6	Working with all partners towards a safe, supportive and compassionate community for all.
Strategic Directions #2:	Service Excellence
Focus Area 1.1	<u>Capacity</u> Balancing service levels with human and fiscal resources.
Key Initiative 2.2.1	Advocating for a City to address community needs.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:
Everyone is Home – Yellowknife’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Existing Programs/Services

Under Reaching Home: Canada’s Strategy to End Homelessness, the City of Yellowknife has allocated funding to the services identified for the previous four years of the eight-year funding agreement.



Committee noted that support for the recommendation of the CAB will provide the opportunity for various organizations to provide key services and programs to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Committee recommends that Council approve the recommendation from the City of Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) to allocate \$535,000.00 of 2025-2026 Reaching Home - Canada's Strategy to End Homelessness funding as follows:

1.	Homebase – Youth Street Outreach	\$200,000.00
2.	Salvation Army – Kitchen Repairs	\$157,000.00
3.	Yellowknife Women's Society - Cook	\$78,000.00
4.	YWCA NWT – Prevention and Shelter Diversion	\$100,000.00

MOVE APPROVAL

(For Information Only)

5. Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to amend Fees and Charges By-law No. 4436, as amended, by updating references to the Dog By-law, adding Visitor Information Centre fees, deleting Part 1 and amending Parts 4 and 12.

Committee noted that amendments being brought forward reflect the 3% increase in Fees and Charges By-law No. 4436 for Cemetery fees and the Recreation and Parks related fees, Parts 4 and 12 respectively as contemplated in the 2025 Budget – Foundations for Growth. Additionally, the amending by-law will delete Part 1 – Combative Sports Fees following Council direction to rescind the Combative Sports By-law No. 4721. There is an amendment to the charge for additional computer time at the Library to reflect the principles of a public library, and the addition of an hourly Commercial rate for non-ice activities has been added to accommodate for the online booking pilot program. And finally, the amendments also reflect the free access to the indoor track and indoor playground for 2025. The Visitor Information Center facilities are available to be rented by the public and therefore included in this By-law.

The introduction of the Aquatic Centre and the closing of the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool (RIMP) has prompted changes to the methodology around rental fees regarding the new facility. To ensure that the facility is as flexible as possible to generate the greatest amount of use for the public, it is scheduled in a drop-in manner with rental time available for existing and new user groups. To accommodate this, components that are available for rent within the natatorium will be the lanes within the 8-lane lap pool and the three-lane leisure pool.

This methodology will allow the City to maximize scheduling for lane swims, public/family swims and access to the slides, lazy river, therapy pool, steam room and splash-park as well as accommodating rentals such as the Polar Bear Swim Club.

The RIMP has been a very popular venue for families and friends to gather for birthday parties. Currently parties can be accommodated through simply paying admissions, group



rate available, and if desired and available the solarium area can be booked for cake and gifts. Two other options available are a shared rental or a private rental. A shared rental allows for up to 35 party participants to share the facility with a public swim and utilize the solarium if desired and available. The private rental allows for a group to have full private access to the facility. Both of these have become increasingly difficult to accommodate and many requests have been declined due to staff limitations and the impact on services, particularly the reduction of public or family swim availabilities.

Parties at the Aquatic Centre will be accommodated as described above in the first instance. Party goers will pay regular admission, group rate available, and follow up if desired with cake and gifts in one of the two rooms adjacent to the natatorium.

Components outside of the natatorium that are available for rent include a meeting room, the multipurpose/training rooms A or B, or A and B as well as the sun deck.

The Polar Bear Swim Club currently rents three lanes, three days a week in the mornings, and 5 lanes during afternoons, early evenings and as well as on weekends. The new rental structure will accommodate for their current practice as well as allowing for expansion as the Club grows. The rental fees to the Club will expand as their Club expands and more lanes are required, and in the event of swim meets which occur a few times a year due to the number of lanes being rented. To accommodate for this increase in fees for growth and swim meets the By-law includes a 5-year plan for a phased increase in rental fees when the entire 8-lane competitive pool is rented for swim meets to avoid financial hardship for the Club.

As discussed during the 2025 budget deliberations the introduction of an online facility booking pilot is being introduced as of April 1, 2025. The pilot program will allow for the viewing and booking of available time in City indoor facilities including arenas, fields, meeting rooms and gym at the applicable rate for age group and time of day. Those choosing to use the on-line booking option will be able to see and book available time throughout a program cycle which is approximately three months. Due to the complexity of lifeguard to patron ratio, the Aquatic Centre is not included in the online booking program. All aquatic rentals are required to be made through the Booking Clerks.

Two amendments to the Library internet use are being introduced. The first is the reduction of the fee for excess use of the internet is being reduced from \$7.00 to \$5.00. The fee had been established to eliminate excess use of those using the computers for gaming to ensure that they are available for those requiring computers for homework, resume writing etc. To ensure that computer use is accessible for those that require it the most, the fee is being reduced and frozen at \$5.00/hour. This aligns with the principle of public libraries of universal, equitable, and affordable access. Over the time that this fee has been in existence, it has rarely been levied due to the cost. Staff will continue to be diligent to ensure that the computers remain available on an equitable basis and in particular for those guests requiring them for key uses.



The second change to the Library internet use is to eliminate the \$6.75/hour for mobile devices for use in excess of 2 hours. This fee is impossible to manage with the Wi-Fi software system. Although this fee has been in the Fees and Charges By-law for some time, it has never been charged to a guest of the Library.

The Visitor Information Center facilities are available to be rented by the public and therefore are included in this By-law.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:
Strategic Direction #2: Service Excellence

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:
Fees and Charges By-law No. 4436, as amended.

Budget

The 2025/2026 Fees and Charges amendment presented herein align with the increases in fees as contemplated in the 2025 Budget.

Cost of Living

The Access for All program has been established to ensure that, among other services, basic recreation and leisure pursuits are available to every citizen in Yellowknife.

Implementation Strategy

The introduction of the Aquatic Centre fee structure has been discussed with the Polar Bear Swim Club so they are able to properly plan and account for increases over time.

Committee noted that amendments to Parts 1, 4 and 12 of the Fees and Charges By-law are being brought forward for Council's consideration to ensure that they reflect the motion of Council to rescind the Combative Sports By-law No. 4721, and the fee increases included in the 2025 Budget. The amendment will also update references to the Dog By-law with the current by-law number and incorporate that the Visitor Information Center facilities are available for rental.

The increase to the fees and charges reflects past practices of a 3% increase to user fees for City parks and recreation facilities where fees are applied. This 3% increase was first introduced in the early 2000's following Council directed consultation with user groups. The increase is a balance between increasing operational costs to the City and an affordable increase for user groups.

The introduction of the Aquatic Centre and the expanded number of lanes for rent has the potential to increase fees to an existing user group, the Polar Bear Swim Club. The cost per lane will increase at the anticipated 3%, however due to the increase in lanes available the Club will see a larger rental fee when conducting a swim meet. This has been identified and discussed with the Club and a 5-year graduated increase has been included in the By-law for times when the Club rents 8 lanes for competitions.



Committee recommended that By-law No. 5104, a by-law to update references to the Dog By-law, adding Visitor Information Centre fees, delete Part 1 and amend Parts 4 and 12 of Fees and Charges By-law No. 4436, as amended, be presented for adoption.

(For Information Only)

6. Councillor Cochrane declared a conflict and excused himself from the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

(For Information Only)

7. Committee heard a presentation from Natalie Plato, Erica Nyyssonen, Andrei Torianski and Geneva Irwin, representatives of the Giant Mine Remediation Project, regarding the annual project update.

8. Committee requested that the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team provide a presentation regarding its Risk Management Framework and Plans.

(For Information Only)

9. Councillor Cochrane returned to the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

(For Information Only)

10. Councillor Arden-Smith moved,
Councillor Fequet seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 12:49 p.m. to discuss a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the 2025 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

11. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the 2025 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision.

(For Information Only)

12. Councillor Arden-Smith moved,
Councillor Warburton seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 12:49 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the 2025 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision.**



Committee noted that in accordance with the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, provisions are made for assessment complaints and appeals to be heard. Under Section 30(2) of the *Act*, City Council is authorized and responsible for the appointment of the members of the municipal Board of Revision.

The 2025 Board of Revision is scheduled to hear complaints on April 10, 2025.

The City of Yellowknife (City) has advertised for members to sit on the Board of Revision in the Capital Update and the City's website and social media sites.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Council Goal #1 People First.

Motion #0285-04 That the City amend its Appointments to Municipal Boards and Committees Policy by adding the following under the Policy heading:

5. Appointments to administrative tribunals (i.e. the Development Appeal Board and Board of Revision) should be based on merit, experience and expertise, rather than representation of a specific interest or organization. Advertisements for vacant positions should note the nature of the service and the appointment qualifications.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:

Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

Legislation

Pursuant to Section 30 of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, the minimum number of members that Council may appoint to the Board of Revision is three (3). Section 31 states that a member of the Municipal Board of Revision holds office for not more than three years and that a person may be reappointed in subsequent years.

Consistency

Historically, Council has appointed one (1) member of Council and four (4) members of the public to the Board. A person appointed to a Municipal Board of Revision holds office for not more than one year.

In assigning Council Member portfolios, Councillor Tom McLennan was named as the City's representative on the Board of Revision.

Procedural Considerations

City Council establishes the honoraria which would be provided for the performance of the duties of the Board chairperson and the community members of the Board of Revision. The Honorarium for 2024 was \$500 per day for community members. The Chairperson is selected by the Members of the Board of Revision.



Committee noted that a delay in appointing members to the Board of Revision will delay the hearing dates. The certified assessment roll (Second Revision) cannot be finalized until the Board of Revision has heard all appeals and rendered its decisions. If there is a substantial delay in finalizing the Second Revision, tax bills will be delayed, which will have a significant impact on cash flow and debt servicing cost.

Committee recommends that Council appoint Nancy Lamb, Dave Nickerson and Todd Slack to the 2025 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision, and that an honorarium of \$500 per day be paid to all community board members.

MOVE APPROVAL

14. The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.