



Corporate Report

NO: R027

COUNCIL DATE: March 9, 2009

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: March 3, 2009
FROM: General Manager, Human Resources FILE: Memorial Scholarships
SUBJECT: City of Surrey Employee Memorial Scholarships

RECOMMENDATION

The Human Resources Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

BACKGROUND

During 2007 and 2008, the City of Surrey experienced the deaths of several active employees due to non-work related causes. As a result of these very sad occurrences, Council requested that staff consider options for the establishment of an enduring and consequential memorial to City employees who have passed away. In November 2008, Council resolved to establish an annual City of Surrey employee memorial scholarship at each of Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Simon Fraser University as a means to commemorate the memory of City of Surrey employees who have passed away.

DISCUSSION

Human Resources staff has worked with Simon Fraser University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University to establish a City of Surrey Employee Memorial Scholarship at each university. The availability of these memorial scholarships will be formally communicated to City employees after Council receives this report.

The annual scholarship established at each University will provide \$1000 to an eligible student. Each of the Universities will undertake all of the necessary administration related to the Scholarship from advertising the availability of the Scholarship to evaluating applications and making the decision as to which student will receive the Scholarship.

To be eligible for consideration for the Scholarships, the applicant must be a dependent of a current City employee (or a dependent of an active City employee who passed away), must have superior academic achievement and have demonstrated strong community spirit. The Kwantlen Scholarship will be available to a student in either undergraduate studies or vocational training and, in the case of SFU, the scholarship will be for undergraduate studies. The scholarships will be available to a new student, a transferring student or a continuing student (Kwantlen only).

Once a decision has been made by the respective Universities, the Mayor will announce the names of the students to whom the Scholarships are awarded at a Regular Council meeting and at the same time will be able to highlight the underlying reasons for the scholarships (i.e. as a memorial to City employees who have passed away). The first of these scholarships will be awarded for the 2009/10 academic year. The selection process will be completed by June 2009. The announcement by the Mayor of the students to whom the 2009/10 scholarships are awarded will occur in June 2009.

Nicola Webb
General Manager
Human Resources