

NO: F007

COUNCIL DATE: **February 23, 2015**

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 6, 2015**

FROM: **Crime Reduction Strategy Manager and  
General Manager, Finance & Technology**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **SANSU Addictions Education Series – One-time Grant Request**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department recommends that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve a sponsorship contribution of \$2,400 from the Council Initiatives Fund to the Surrey Area Network of Substance Users (SANSU) partnership project to develop a public education series titled “**Drugs, Families and Society**”, to commence in March 2015.

## INTENT

The City has received a request from the Surrey Area Network of Substance Users (SANSU) for a one-time sponsorship in support of the development of an educational series designed for the community. This report addresses that request.

## BACKGROUND

SANSU-Surrey Area Network of Substance Users is a group of substance users and former substance users who work to improve the lives of people who use such substances through user-based peer support and education. SANSU is a democratic organization of current and former substance users and was formed in 2011. SANSU is designed to bring together active substance users and former users, professional and non-professional activists, supporters and community partners from Surrey, North Delta, White Rock and Langley. SANSU currently operates under the BC Health Care system’s Fraser Health Authority region.

SANSU has received partial funding from Fraser Health Authority and the LookOut Society to bring this 7 series of lectures to the City of Surrey. The anticipated audience will be hospital staff, students, business owners, political leaders, families and friends of those suffering from addiction, as well as addicts themselves. SANSU and project partners will use flyers, email, text messaging, social media, embedded video, word of mouth, and posters to maximize community participation in these lectures.

## DISCUSSION

Staff has evaluated this request and is recommending that Council support SANSU with a one-time grant of \$2,400, from Council Initiatives. Staff feedback shows that peer support substance use programs such as SANSU’s are considered a best practice by health authorities world-wide.

As well, SANSU has been proactively working in partnership with the City, the Whalley Community Improvement Association, and several other agencies in an effort to be a positive contributor to addressing addiction issues in the City. Staff recommend that the City's support of this project would be very positive.

This level of sponsorship (\$2,400) will allow the City to be included as a contributing education sponsor, which will allow the City to be included in the welcoming remarks, be included in the speaker's introduction line-up, as well as be recognized in the program as an educational sponsor.

The series is titled "**Drugs, Families and Society**" and is a lecture series developed and delivered by Mark Haden, M.S.W. Adjunct Professor UBC School of Population and Public Health.

This free public series of 7 lectures and discussions, provide education on addictions and discussions on alcohol and other drugs. It provides an approach to drug education which is considered to be "unusually honest". Mark Haden has a refreshingly personal approach to this discussion which welcomes people who are current or former drug users, probation referrals, students, concerned family or friends, interested community members, as well as business and other professionals.

This established program is focused on answering the following questions:

- What is addiction, how do you treat it, and how does our whole society play a role in the process of creating and maintaining addictions?
- It also explores how you can help someone else who has problematic substance use.

Mark Haden worked in the addictions field for 28 years as a counsellor, supervisor and trainer. He currently is an Adjunct Professor of the UBC School of Population and Public Health. Mark also teaches at the UBC school of Social Work, Nursing and Medicine. He presents at a number of community colleges in Vancouver and is a sought after speaker at conferences around the world. He was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for drug policy reform work in 2013 and has been published on the issue of Drug Control Policy in numerous journals.

Mark's lectures will aid in bringing a public awareness and understanding of drugs and the impacts they have on families and society through a holistic, community development lens.

## **Funding**

The cost of this series is as follows:

### **Budget:**

• Mark Haden 7 lecture presentation (2 hours each)	\$ 4, 200.00
• Posters and printed promotional materials	\$ 400.00
• Refreshments over 7 weeks	\$ 400.00
• VENUE (SFU-Surrey) - in-kind \$300 x 7 weeks	<u>\$ 2, 100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL cost</b>	<b>\$ 7, 100.00</b>

SANSU has garnered the following Sponsorship to date;

• The Fraser Health Authority	\$2, 000 .00
• The Lookout Society	\$ 600.00
• SFU- Surrey (in-kind)	<u>\$ 2, 100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Sponsorship to date</b>	<b>\$4, 700 .00</b>

**Outstanding funds required**

**= \$2, 400.00**

**Appendix “II”** attached to this report provides information on the balance in the Council Initiatives Fund on the assumption that Council will approve the recommendation of this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve a sponsorship contribution of \$2,400 from the Council Initiatives Fund to SANSU for the development of a public education series to be developed in partnership with the Fraser Health Authority, Simon Fraser University Surrey and the City of Surrey (Crime Reduction and Social Planning).

Colleen Kerr  
Crime Reduction Strategy Manager

Vivienne Wilke, CGA  
General Manager,  
Finance & Technology

**Appendix I: Educational Series Overview**

**Appendix II: Council Initiatives Fund**

## SANSU Addictions Educational Series Overview

### **Session #1 -The development of addiction:**

This session explores the complex human experience which can lead to the process of addiction. The surprising conclusion is that addiction is more about our humanity than about the pharmacology of drugs. This presentation acknowledges the truth that drugs are not all bad and that the context of use is a determinant of whether our relationship with substances is problematic or beneficial.

### **Session #2 – Chemicals and the body**

This session explores the different drugs and how our brain changes in response to drug use.

### **Session #3 – Recovery**

This session explores how our thinking, feeling, acting, social and spiritual experiences are impacted by drugs and how these aspects of our lives need to be transformed in the recovery process. The importance of reworking our relationships with others is emphasized as the concept of “addiction as an attachment disorder” is explored. A series of relapse prevention recovery checklists are examined.

### **Session #4 – Families**

The relationship between our experience of significant others and our addictions is explored in this session. We see ourselves in the mirrors of others and this reflection is important in the development of our strengths and vulnerabilities. Understanding how family healing occurs is an important aspect of healing from addictions.

### **Session #5 – Helping others**

As addiction is an attachment disorder, when we try to help someone else we will often experience rejection and hostility. This session explores how we can influence someone when dealing with the issue of problematic substance use which is usually associated with anger, defensiveness, conflict and stress.

### **Session #6 - Harm Reduction Theory**

This interactive presentation explores the theory behind services which are provided for active drug users. Services like needle exchange and supervised injection sites are intended to engage and empower clients and reduce the spread of disease.

The topics covered are:

- The history of harm reduction
- The theory of public health which is foundational to harm reduction
- Principles of harm reduction
- Enabling vs harm reduction
- Social capital and harm reduction
- Specific harm reduction services
- The future of harm reduction

### **Session #7 – Healing our society**

This presentation explores how our whole society needs to evolve in order to collectively heal from addictions. There is a changing view of drugs around the globe which is moving towards seeing drugs and addiction as a health problem and not a criminal justice problem. Most European countries and Australia are moving away from a “war on drugs” paradigm towards a public health mode of drug control. This controversial new model which challenges the fundamentals of drug prohibition will be examined. The concept of an evidence based regulated market for currently illegal drugs, based on public health and human rights will be examined.

This program is bold in the exploration of new ideas. Some of the themes and topics explored in this program include:

- Honest drug education – which offers an apology for the dishonesty of the past
- Addiction as an attachment disorder
- Supervised injection sites are a compassionate service response
- A public health approach to the regulation of currently illegal drugs
- Harm reduction is keeping someone alive long enough to seek help

APPENDIX II



2015 FINANCIAL PLAN  
COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date
Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	
<b>2015 Approved Budget</b>	<u>250,000</u>	
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 3 of 5)		40,000
2015 Façade Enhancement Program		25,000
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 1 of 3)		10,000
2015 Sponsor Appreciation Event (Proposed)		10,000
SANSU Addictions Education Series (Proposed)		2,400
Surrey Knights Swim Club (Proposed)		3,000
2015 CBHA Western Challenge Cup (Proposed)		3,500
2015 BC Hockey Pee Wee Championship (Proposed)		2,000
Elleven Management SX Cup 2015 (Proposed)		4,000
Surrey Steps Up: Youth Engagement Campaign (Proposed)		10,000
Policing Costs for Community Events (Proposed)		55,000
<b>Allocations for 2015</b>		<u>\$ 164,900</u>