



# REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-350

From: Financial Administration

Date: February 13, 2025

**Subject: Grant Request – Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society**

## RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a funding commitment in the amount of \$5,000 payable in equal amounts of

- \$2,500 from Function 120 – Electoral Area C Fair Share, and
- \$2,500 from Function 120 – Electoral Area D Fair Share,

to be issued to Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society to assist with the costs of their annual Conference.

## BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society (SWLCS) is requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to assist with the costs of hosting their annual conference. The SWLCS is celebrating their 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting their annual Conference with a two-day event to be held in Fort St. John. The Conference is designed by women of the Peace Region for women of the Peace Region. The goal of the event is to provide professional development opportunities to the female workforce to empower female leaders to grow and build professionally. The total cost of the event will be \$203,000. The various sponsorship options to choose from align with the proposed \$5,000 PRRD’s sponsorship commitment and sponsorship package options provided by the Society are attached.

Previously, the PRRD has provided the Sparks Women’s Leadership Conference Society with the following grants:

Year	Total Amount	Funding Source
2024	\$5,000	Split equally from Function 120 Area D and C Fair share
2023	\$5,000	Split equally from Function 120 Area D and C Fair share
2022	\$2,500	Split between Area C BC Rail and Area D Fair Share
2021	\$5,000	2020 surplus in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid
2019	\$2,500	Function 140 - Economic Development
2018	\$2,500	Function 140 - Economic Development
2017	\$2,500	Grants to Community Organizations – Special Events Grant
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	

All grants prior to 2022 were funded through Grant-in-Aid programs that no longer exist. In 2022, the grant funding was paid in equal amounts from Function 120 – Electoral Area C BC Rail and Function 120 – Electoral Area D Fair Share. In 2023 and 2024, the grant funding was paid in equal amounts from Function 120 – Electoral Area C and D Fair Share.

This funding request meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid policy. Spark Women’s Leadership is a registered not-for-profit Society in good standing with the *Societies Act* of BC and the SWLCS annual report has been submitted and is available on the Consent Calendar and their application is attached to this report.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Rural Budget Administration Committee authorize a funding commitment in the amount of \$5,000; \$2,500 payable from Area C - BC Rail and \$2,500 from Function 120 – Electoral Area D Fair Share fund, to be issued to the Sparks Women’s Leadership Conference Society to assist with the costs of their annual conference.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from Sparks Women’s Leadership Conference Society.
3. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

As of December 31,2024, the balance after remaining commitments Electoral Area C Fair Share was \$998,164.13

As of December 31,2024, the balance after remaining commitments Electoral Area D Fair Share was \$551,377.26.

As of December 31,2024, the balance after remaining commitments Electoral Area C BC Rail/PRA was \$32,310.04.

### **COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The applicant will be notified in writing of the Committee’s decision and, if funding is approved, will be asked to recognize the Peace River Regional District contribution.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

#### Attachments:

1. Grant Application – Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society
2. Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society Sponsorship Package

#### External Links:

1. [Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Policy #0340-69](#)