

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: 2020 Heritage Financial Incentives Program

Date Prepared: March 12, 2020

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Councillor Maggie Burton, Planning and Development Lead

Ward: All

Decision/Direction Required:

To seek approval to include historic wrought iron fences in the Heritage Financial Incentives Program.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

On March 1, 2020, the City began accepting applications for the 2020 Heritage Financial Incentives Program. Applications are accepted from March 1 to May 1 each year. This will be the fifth year that the Incentives Program has been offered.

The Heritage Financial Incentives Program is intended to defray some of the cost associated with maintaining and conserving municipally designated Heritage Buildings and those buildings located in the City's designated Heritage Areas. While the Heritage Areas are primarily in Ward 2, there are Designated Heritage Buildings throughout the City.

There are two types of Financial Incentives offered: the Heritage Maintenance Grant and the Heritage Conservation Grant. Attached is a description of the program and a list of eligible work projects pertaining to each grant.

Under the current program, fences, outbuildings and landscaping are not eligible for assistance. Some citizens have asked the City to allow financial assistance for historic wrought iron fences given the associated cost to replace such fences, and that there are few wrought iron fences remaining. If wrought iron fences are to be included in the Heritage Financial Incentives Program, the grants could be limited to properties with existing historic wrought iron fences and only include fences along a public street. New installations of wrought iron fences would not be included.

Given the costs associated with repairing and replacing the posts, restoration of wrought iron fences would best fit in the Heritage Conservation Grant in which Council may issue a grant of 25% of the material and labour costs to a maximum of \$5,000 per building, per calendar year.

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Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:
Addition to be included in the Heritage Financial Incentives Program.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
Property owners of Designated Heritage Buildings and buildings in the Heritage Areas.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
A Sustainable City – Plan for land use and preserve and enhance the natural and built environment where we live.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: Not applicable.
5. Privacy Implications: Not applicable.
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:
Will be promoted through engagement and communications of the program.
7. Human Resource Implications: Not applicable.
8. Procurement Implications: Not applicable.
9. Information Technology Implications: Not applicable.
10. Other Implications: Not applicable.

Recommendation:

That Council include maintenance of existing wrought iron fences as part of the Heritage Conservation Grant which could issue a grant of 25% of the material and labour costs to a maximum of \$5,000 per building, per calendar year.

Further, that Council limit the Heritage Conservation Grant to wrought iron fences abutting a public street.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2020 Heritage Financial Incentives Program .docx
Attachments:	- Heritage Financial Incentives Program _ City Of St. John's.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 18, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Ken O'Brien - Mar 18, 2020 - 11:34 AM

Jason Sinyard - Mar 18, 2020 - 12:14 PM