

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Waiving of permit fees for Youth Ventures participants

Date Prepared: June 30, 2020

Report To: Regular Meeting of Council

Councillor and Role: Mayor Danny Breen, Governance & Strategic Priorities

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required: Seeking council approval on recommended waiving of permit fees for businesses started by students enrolled in the Youth Ventures program.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

As in previous years, Youth Ventures is asking St. John's City Council to waive any permit fees for students who start businesses for the summer. City Council has approved this annual request for the last several years.

Youth Ventures is a not-for-profit organization operating throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. Each summer, the Youth Ventures program employs 22 coordinators to help youth across our province start and run their own business. Youth Ventures coordinators offer support in the form of: idea generation, accounting help, marketing support, loan application support, and business networking including the matching of youth with local business mentors. The 2020 season of Youth Ventures will be delivered virtually. <https://youthventuresnl.com>

The City of St. John's commends the Youth Ventures program for promoting entrepreneurship as a viable option for the youth in our city and in our province. Economic development depends on entrepreneurship as entrepreneurs create businesses and businesses are the engines of job creation.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: Waiving of the \$50 occupancy permit fee.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

Metro Business Opportunities Agency administers the Youth Ventures program in St. John's.

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3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:

Aligns with Our City Our Future – Strategic Plan 2019-2029, especially directions 1 and 3 (“A Sustainable City,” and “A Connected City”). Aligns as well with Economic Roadmap 2021.

4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A

5. Privacy Implications: N/A

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

Communications will be undertaken through a variety of social media and related channels to relevant audiences.

7. Human Resource Implications: N/A

8. Procurement Implications: N/A

9. Information Technology Implications: N/A

10. Other Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

That Council waive permit fees for participants who start businesses in St. John’s for the duration of the Youth Ventures program for 2020 (upto August 31, 2020).

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