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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council"](#)
Date: 3/10/2025 8:56:22 PM
Subject: Query re: Community Service Grants Report: EMBERS Eastside Works

Good evening Mayor and Council,

We have received a question arising from correspondence regarding the Community Services Grant report tomorrow relating to EMBERS Eastside Works not being recommended for a Core Support Grant, a concern that EMBERS Eastside Works is facing closure after not receiving Provincial funding, and an assertion that the City has not supported EMBERS Eastside Works since 2023. Please find below some information from Margaret Wittgens, General Manager of ACCS in response to the query:

- Staff recognize the funding challenges facing the NPO sector including Eastside Works.
- As queried in the correspondence, the Council-directed reallocation of \$1m from the 2025 Social Policy Grant Budget to support continuation of Engineering Services' Project Hope has impacted the funding available through the 2025 Social Policy grants program.
 - Although the funding source for Project Hope is the Social Policy Grant budget, the funding is allocated through an Engineering Services contract and therefore it is not captured in the ACCS Grant report.
 - One of the impacts is that no organizations were recommended for new grant funding, this includes Eastside Works' \$25,000 application for a Core Support Grant.
- With regard to Eastside Works, the City works with and supports ESW in a number of ways, including support for strategic planning, a grant to enable access to space at below market rates, as well as support for peer employment and stewardship programs. Staff will be able to provide specific information if requested tomorrow.

Please note that when we learned about the decision by the Province to not fund EMBERS Eastside Works' grant application, I reached out the ADM who oversees employment-related programming at the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) to learn more about the decision. Through their adjudicated granting process, MSDPR decided to award the funding in question to a different DTES-based non-profit who provides employment navigation services. Arising from that discussion, Margaret and her Social Policy community economic development team are now connected with the staff at this MSDPR division and we look forward to staying in contact with them moving forward.

Thank you,

Sandra

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x'm k'y'm (Musqueam), S'wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.