

## Henry Baker Scholarship Program – Appointment of City Council Member to Selection Committee

<b>Date</b>	June 2, 2021
<b>To</b>	Executive Committee
<b>From</b>	City Planning & Community Development
<b>Service Area</b>	Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
<b>Item No.</b>	E21-31

### RECOMMENDATION

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The Executive Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Appoint a member of City Council to sit on the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee with a term expiring December 31, 2021.
2. Direct the City Clerk to add this Committee to the annual Elected Official Appointments to Boards and Committees.

### ISSUE

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The City of Regina (City) currently administers the Henry Baker Scholarship Program which provides scholarship funds to Regina residents attending post secondary education in the city. Historically, one member of City Council has been appointed to sit on the selection committee and who also recognizes the scholarship recipients at the September City Council meeting. The role is currently vacant, and an appointment is required by Council.

## **IMPACTS**

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### **Financial Implications**

The Henry Baker Scholarship Program offers 17 scholarships at \$2,000 each. Annually, \$34,000 of scholarship funds are awarded to deserving students that reside in Regina and attend an educational institution within the city.

### **Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications outlined in this report.

### **Policy and/or Strategic Implications**

The scholarship program is aligned with the priority to support the City's economic development strategy to foster the potential of Regina's growing Indigenous community. Annually, the Henry Baker Scholarship Program offers a minimum of five of the 17 scholarships specific to Indigenous educational institutions. However, all 17 scholarships offered are available to self-declaring Indigenous applicants.

### **Accessibility Implications**

The Henry Baker Scholarship Program takes accessibility into account for applicants unable to register in the minimum nine credit hours as a result of barriers related to a disability. Applicants who are unable to register in the minimum credit hours will still be considered, if the maximum course load is specified and documented by a postsecondary institution's professional who is qualified to assess their course load.

### **Other Implications**

There are no other implications outlined in this report.

## **OTHER OPTIONS**

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There are two potential options that could be considered by Council outside of the recommended option:

1. City Council appoint a member of Council to sit on the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee from June 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024.
2. City Council not appoint a member of Council to sit on the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee. If this option is selected, there would not be Council representation on the Selection Committee and Administration would look at options available to present the Scholarship recipients at the City Council meeting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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Pre COVID-19, the City recognized Henry Baker Scholarship recipients at the September Council meeting. They also received a certificate and a photo opportunity with the Mayor. This was also promoted on the City's website and social media channels.

Recently, due to the impacts of COVID-19 and to ensure public health orders are followed, the recognition ceremony shifted to a virtual setting. Recipients are still recognized at the start of the

September Council meeting; however, through an on-screen photo and write-up. In addition to the recipients being congratulated through the City's website and social media channels, individuals receive a lawn sign to promote their accomplishment in their community.

Moving forward, a communication strategy will be developed by Administration to support the initiative, dependent on COVID-19 restrictions as well as best practices.

## **DISCUSSION**

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On February 26, 1990, City Council approved establishment of the City Scholarship Program. In 1997, the name of the scholarship program was changed to the Henry Baker Scholarship Program to honour former Mayor Henry Baker. The Scholarship Program supports the City's vision by providing opportunities for young people in the community to pursue post-secondary education:

- Support superior students at the University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (including Dumont Technical Institute), Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and Registered Vocational Schools in Regina (Western College of Remedial Massage Therapies, The Style Academy, Marvel Beauty School, The Globe Theatre Conservatory, Avant-Garde College and Apex Academy of Professional Grooming & Animal Arts).
- Support the aim of the City's economic development strategy to foster the potential of Regina's growing Indigenous community.
- Reflect the City's commitment to employment equity.
- Recognize the important role the above educational institutions play in the community.

## **Review Process**

The Scholarship Selection Committee consists of:

- one member from City Council,
- two members of Administration from the City, historically the City Clerk and a representative from People & Organizational Culture,
- representative(s) from the University of Regina,
- representative(s) from the First Nations University of Canada,
- representative(s) from Saskatchewan Polytechnic,
- representative(s) from Gabriel Dumont Institute,
- representative(s) from Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and
- representative(s) from each of the applying Category I Vocational schools based in Regina (dependent on application submissions).

Administration receives, evaluates and prepares the application submissions to ensure criteria and eligibility are met. Administration then works with the educational institution representatives to identify leading applicants that have applied from the respective institutions. This helps to identify the top applicants in each category, based on the adjudication criteria for the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee. The top candidates in each scholarship category are provided to the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee three weeks prior to the August

adjudication. The Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee evaluates applications, based on the following criteria:

- weighted averages for academic performance
- community involvement
- financial need
- academic and career goals, and
- for post-graduate students, the relevance of thesis topics to the city of Regina

In August, the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee and educational institution representatives meet to discuss and award each scholarship to candidates that are unanimously agreed on by the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee.

The Henry Baker Scholarship Program receives approximately 90-100 scholarship applications annually.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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March 12, 1990; CR-72 - City of Regina Scholarship Program  
City Council approval to establish, implement and promote a City of Regina scholarship program.

Per the authority delegated to the Administration by City Council, the City Manager, or his or her delegate, pursuant to Section 37.1 of *The Regina Administration Bylaw, Bylaw No. 2003-69* allows Administration to establish the Henry Baker Scholarship Selection Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Respectfully Submitted,



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5/20/2021



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5/26/2021

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