
For Information

REPORT TITLE: Request from Golf Canada for Regional Funding

FROM: Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide Regional Council with information on Golf's Canada's request for funding to build the Home for Canadian Golf in the Town of Caledon.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Golf Canada is requesting \$2.5M in funding from the Region of Peel to fund its Home for Canadian Golf Project, specifically the development of First Tee – Canada and a community putting green.
 - The Town of Caledon requested that the Region of Peel support Golf Canada's request.
 - Golf Canada's request does not align with Regional priorities and the identified objectives and outcomes of the Community Investment Program Fund.
 - Not-for-profits in Peel continue to see unprecedented rates of inflation and deepening financial precarity while the demand in Peel for food, housing, and social services continue to strain the social service ecosystem.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

On May 12, 2022, Regional Council received correspondence from the Town of Caledon requesting that the Region of Peel support a \$2.5M grant for infrastructure planned to enhance Golf Canada's Home for Canadian Golf project. This request was followed by a delegation from Golf Canada at the January 12, 2023, Regional Council meeting. The request for funding was referred to staff for a follow-up report to Regional Council.

The Home for Canadian Golf project involves the development of a golf campus facility located at the current TPC Toronto Osprey Valley golf course in Caledon. The project includes the development of a headquarters for Golf Canada, an indoor-outdoor training facility, the development of a national headquarters for First Tee - Canada, an expanded Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, and a community putting green. In addition to its request for Regional funding, Golf Canada is also requesting \$2.5M in funding from both the Federal and Provincial Government to support the development of its Home for Canadian Golf project.

Golf Canada's request for Regional funding in the amount of \$2.5M will be allocated to support Phase 2 of its project which includes the development of a national headquarters for First Tee - Canada and a community putting green. First Tee - Canada is an international

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youth development organization that aims to increase access to golf for youth from diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds and for youth-serving organizations. The headquarters will provide children and families with the chance to learn about and play golf while also serving as a recreational facility for the community of Caledon and visiting golf tourists.

2. Economic Impact of Golf Canada's Request

Golf Canada has indicated that the development of their Home for Canadian Golf project will allow for the relocation of 175 jobs to Caledon and the creation of about 475 jobs during the construction phases of the project with a total estimated construction investment of \$90M. Through tourism and hosting events such as the 2026 RBC Canadian Open Qualifiers, Golf Canada projects over \$85M in economic impact, although it remains unclear as to how long it would take to see such a return on investment in Peel. Additionally, Golf Canada aims to enhance community and recreation by providing free access to a designated community putting green, "no barriers to entry" through its First Tee - Canada program, and free access to the Canadian Golf Museum.

3. Alignment to the Community Investment Program

Golf Canada's request for Regional funding was referred to staff at the January 12, 2023 Council Meeting. Requests for funding by the Peel not-for-profit sector are referred to Human Services' Community Investment Program. The Region of Peel's Community Investment Program provides funding to the not-for-profit sector to build stronger, more equitable communities by providing programs to the most vulnerable, supporting capacity and resources for marginalized and equity-seeking populations, and enabling upstream systems change that addresses complex social issues.

The Community Investment Program does not directly fund agency programs or client services, rather it invests exclusively in agencies' core operations. Regional Community Investment funding represents only a small percentage (up to 20 per cent) of each organization's overall revenue. Agencies leverage the Region's funding to obtain other funding sources from different levels of government, foundations, and private sector funders. To better understand the administration of Community Investment funding streams, please see below.

Fund	Fund Description	Funding Maximum
Core Fund	Invests in an agency's core operational needs, enabling the organization to develop, maintain, and improve its service delivery and programs.	Up to \$100,000
Capacity Fund	Strengthens an agency's infrastructure with a focus on the restorative phases of the COVID-19.	Up to \$10,000
Change Fund	Empower communities and not-for-profit groups to stabilize and rebuild during the phases of COVID-19.	Up to \$90,000

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Small Capital Fund	Strengthen an organization's ability to better meet service needs through small capital purchases during COVID-19.	Up to \$10,000
Community Hubs	Support community agencies to conduct feasibility studies aligned to Peel's community hub development standards.	Up to \$30,000
Agriculture Fund	Focus on increased awareness and education of Peel's agricultural community (maximum funding \$3,000).	Up to \$3000

In 2022, Peel not-for-profits and community agencies faced unprecedented high rates of inflation; deepening financial precarity; staffing and volunteer crisis. Requests for Community Investment grants in 2022 totaled over nineteen million dollars, which is 84 per cent over the approved yearly total budget. With rising costs, the demand in Peel for food, housing, and social service supports will continue to strain the social service ecosystem through 2023 to 2026.

Golf Canada's capital request of \$2.5M does not align with the current Community Investment funding parameters and thresholds. As phase 2 of the project is completed, Golf Canada is encouraged to apply to one of the funding streams listed above for consideration.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Golf Canada's request of \$2.5M is significantly higher than the maximum threshold of all Community Investment Program funding streams. With increased financial demand from Peel's not-for-profit sector to provide funding for the restorative and maintenance phases of the pandemic, Community Investment Program priorities for 2023 will be to support essential program and service needs for Peel's most vulnerable residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Due to changing nature of employment, the Region's commercial development activities have not been able to meet the level set out in the Region's growth forecast in the past decade. The proposed development of Golf Canada's Home for Canadian Golf project will have positive economic and community impact.

At this time, there is not sufficient information available to estimate exact municipal property tax revenue resulting from the proposed development. A preliminary review conducted by staff from the Region and the Town suggested that moderate incremental tax revenues could be anticipated. The proposal before Council for the youth program and putting green is estimated to result in minimal incremental tax.

CONCLUSION

Since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, community agencies in Peel continue to see higher demands for service. Community level intelligence from the Ontario Non-Profit Network found that Peel has the highest number of organizations who experienced an increase in demand for services along with the greatest amount of job vacancies at community organizations and agencies. As a result, organizations are scaling back programs and services, have longer

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waitlists, and/or are discontinuing programs or services. Golf Canada's request for \$2.5M in funding to support the development of First Tee – Canada and a community putting green is not as pressing as other issues facing not-for-profits in Peel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Baird", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

Authored By: Zoli Kertesz, Policy Advisor, Social Development, Planning & Partnerships