



MANNAWANIS NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY

Box 1358, 4901 – 50 ST
St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A0
Phone: 780-645-4630 Fax: 780-645-1980
Email: mnfc@mcsnet.ca

March 2, 2017

To: Phyllis Corbiere
Executive Assistant
County of St Paul
5015-49 Avenue, St Paul, Ab. T0A 3A4

RE: Letter to the Honourable Reeve and St. Paul County Councillors

Dear Sirs/Madams,

The Mannawanis Friendship Centre (MNFC) in St. Paul has 39 year history of providing a variety of services and programming to both indigenous, and non-indigenous peoples from across our region. Over that time we have partnered with many organizations on many activities and projects to encourage stronger relationships between all peoples who live in this multi-cultural community as part of our mandate.

In a letter to Executive Directors sent out on February 15, 2017 (see attachment) by Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association which oversees 19 Friendship Centres in Alberta, the National Aboriginal Friendship Centres Association was still in negotiations with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to develop a better long term contract and package for local FCs to provide more stability and security.

As outlined in the letter received FCs will have to develop a financial and operational risk management plans in order to keep our doors open for a minimum of four (4) months. . As outlined in the attachment, we cannot expect expenses incurred to be recouped through a new federal core funding program as eligible expenditures may only begin as of the funding agreement signing date. Our plan beginning April ,2017 is to reduce service hours to 3 times a week, reduce staff hours and lay-off two Administrative staff if we are able to secure funding from other sources.

We have currently met with St. Paul Town Council and their decision may be based on outcomes through from our March 14, 2017 meeting with the County. We plan to meet with Chiefs and Councils of Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation and Goodfish Lake Cree Nation when we are able to get on their agendas.

In order for MNFC to maintain our operations at a minimal service, we are seeking a grant that will total of \$27,908.52. The grant will go to the following in order for the Centre to operate:

Rent: total 4,744.24 at \$1186.06 per month

Utilities: total \$3037.00 at \$759.00 per month

Executive Assistant: total \$12,527.28 at \$3, 131.82 per month (full time)

Receptionist/Maintenance: total \$7,600.00 at \$1900 per month (part-time)

We urge the Honourable Reeve and County Council to write letters of support to Minister Carol Bennett for a renewed Federal investment in an Indigenous Friendship Centre Program (IFCP) for Canada's most expansive and recognizable urban Indigenous service delivery infrastructure..

Should you need more information regarding this matter please feel free to contact us.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hinano Rosa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hinano Rosa

Executive Director