



COMMUNITY REQUESTS POLICY

Preface

The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation. Almost all such corporations created by government legislation are prohibited from making donations of any kind and usually are exempt from taxation. The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission is somewhat unique in that it is not specifically prohibited from using non-toll revenue for community benefit, provided that a substantial benefit to the Commission exists. The Commission has always interpreted its mandate to the maximum benefit of the community with respect to paying voluntary local taxes and supporting community organizations.

The Commission receives hundreds of requests for funds each year from organizations on both sides of the border. The Commission has also set aside a budget to be used for contribution to community organizations. All requests will be considered on their individual merits, evaluated against criteria set by the Commission, and within the budget set each year for donations. The Commission has developed a set of criteria guidelines, to evaluate and prioritize all requests, that are available to the public and delineate what type of organizations will be qualified, and how their requests will be judged.

Purpose of the Community Requests Program

The Program is intended to support those local community organizations whose mandates are consistent with the mission statement of the NFBC:

"The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission will support cross border relations, tourism and international commerce through the efficient movement of people and goods over its Niagara River crossings."

Qualifying Organizations

The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission will only contribute to public organizations operating for the benefit of the border communities. Requests from private concerns will not be entertained. In addition, the Bridge Commission donates substantial funds to local governments via payments in lieu of property tax. Thus, further requests from such government levels will not be entertained, unless they are directly tied to cooperative and mission specific programs directly beneficial to Commission operations.

In the case of community-based organizations, the Commission will deal exclusively with the non-profit entities. The Commission will not accept applications from third parties operating as commissioned agents.

Requests by private clubs, political causes or organizations whose purpose is to influence legislation or partisan groups are not eligible. Requests by individuals are not eligible (such as, for example, participation in beauty pageants, attending a sporting event, or personal advancement conferences).

An organization that is requesting a donation should be located in the Western New York or Southern Ontario region or serve those areas. National or statewide organizations must indicate a substantial direct benefit to the Western New York or the Southern Ontario region to be considered.

Evaluation Requests

The Commission's criteria on which to base evaluation of community requests include the following:

1. The programs, projects, and activities benefit the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission.
2. The programs, projects, and activities are consistent with the Commission's mission statement of support for cross border relations, tourism, and international commerce through the efficient movement of people and goods over its Niagara River crossings.
3. Applicant has demonstrated that this request will benefit the bi-national border community.
4. The Commission will benefit from association with the organization.
5. The requesting organization has no policies, practices, programs, or activities that are considered negative or offensive to the broader community (racial, religious, sexual, or other).

Applicants should find the foregoing helpful in structuring their presentations to the Commission. Others may save valuable time by not submitting applications that do not meet the above criteria.

Guidelines for Application

1. All requests for donations are to be made in writing with documentation detailing the organization's purpose along with how the organization qualifies, how the request meets the Commission's evaluation criteria, and the amount requested.
2. Donations will be awarded twice a year (June and December), therefore sufficient lead-time should be given to assure that the Commissioners of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission have ample opportunity to review eligible requests far in advance of the semi-annual award period. As such, please submit requests by May 15th or November 15th respectively.
3. Donations or grants are for a single year only. Reapplication is necessary for additional consideration or contributions. In order to fairly serve the community, the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission may not be able to grant awards for future requests, so reliance on NFBC funding should not be built into organization budgets.

4. Requests should be submitted to:

Niagara Falls Bridge Commission
5365 Military Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
Attn: Donation Request

or
Niagara Falls Bridge Commission
P.O. Box 395
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T8
Attn: Donation Request

