



COMMUNITY REQUESTS PROGRAM

The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission is a unique, binational body. Almost all such organizations created by government legislation are generally prohibited from making donations of any kind. The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission is somewhat unique in that it is not specifically restricted from using non-toll revenue for community benefit, provided that a substantial benefit to the Commission exists.

The Commission receives hundreds of requests for funds each year from organizations on both sides of the border, but cannot afford to consider all such requests favorably despite their obvious merit. Therefore, the following set of guidelines assist in both the evaluation and prioritization of all such solicitations.

Intent

This Community Requests Program is intended to support those local community organizations whose mandates are consistent with the mission statement of the Commission:

"To build, maintain and operate lower Niagara River border crossings which facilitate the movement of people and goods in a safe, sustainable and efficient manner."

Qualifying Agencies

- The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission ("Commission") will only contribute to not-for-profit organizations operating for the benefit of the community.
- As a general rule, requests from private concerns will not be considered.
- The Commission donates substantial funds to local governments via payments in lieu of property tax. Therefore, further requests from such government levels will not be considered unless they are directly tied to cooperative and mission-specific programs directly beneficial to Commission operations.
- 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 for such instances as participation in a beauty pageant, attendance at a sporting event, or personal advancement conferences are not eligible.

Request Evaluation Criteria

The Commission has developed a list of criteria from which to base the evaluation of each request for funds. They are as follows:

1. 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.
2. Applicant has demonstrated that this request will benefit the bi-national border community.
3. The Commission will benefit from association with the organization.
4. 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).

Guidelines for Application

1. Requests for donations must be submitted in writing with documentation detailing the purpose of the request, specifically showing how the request meets the Commission's evaluation criteria, and the amount requested (see attached application form).
2. **Donations will be awarded once a year in March.** Therefore, in order to provide sufficient lead-time to ensure that the Board of Commissioners of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission have ample time to review eligible requests far in advance of the award period, **the deadline to apply is February 15th.** Organizations receiving support may be required to submit information regarding how they have met Commission requirements.
3. Donations are for a single year only.
4. To fairly serve the community, the Commission may not be able to provide awards for future requests; therefore, reliance on Commission funding should not be built into organization budgets.
5. Requests should be submitted by the **February 15th deadline** to:

Niagara Falls Bridge Commission
5365 Military Road
Lewiston, New York 14092

OR

Niagara Falls Bridge Commission
P.O. Box 395
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6T8

Attn: Donation Request

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