

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND PROGRAM HISTORY

The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) was established through [The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act](#) in 1995 to provide visible benefits to communities from casino profits. The CIF receives a portion of profits derived from the Regina and Moose Jaw casinos. Between 1996-97 and 2007-08, more than \$70 million was committed from the fund to community projects across Saskatchewan.

The CIF is managed by a government-appointed board comprised of eight community volunteers. The CIF board has responsibility for the management and operation of the fund. The board contracts Sask Sport Inc. to provide grants administration and financial management services. The board has the authority to make all CIF grant decisions subject to general direction provided by government. The board is accountable for the performance of the CIF to government through the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

In 1996-97, exhibition associations received payments to help offset lost revenues from casino expansion. Originally, six exhibition associations received these annual payments. In 2003-04, the payment to the Moose Jaw Exhibition Association was discontinued due to the opening of Casino Moose Jaw. The Moose Jaw Exhibition Association now receives payments directly from the [Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation \(SGC\)](#).

In 1997-98, payments to the [Clarence Campeau Development Fund \(CCDF\)](#) began. The CIF allocated 25 per cent of funds to the [CCDF](#) to support Métis economic development. In 2001-02, responsibility for the [CCDF](#) was transferred to the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations and \$2 million is deducted annually from the CIF portion of ([SGC](#)) profits for this purpose.

In 1997-98, the Community Grant Program was established. The program focused on projects to benefit vulnerable children, youth and families. It was designed to align with the work of the Saskatchewan Action Plan for Children using existing regional and provincial interdepartmental structures. Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs) conduct regional grant reviews and provide grant recommendations to the CIF board. The board makes all final grant decisions. At the provincial level, coordination of the RICs is supported by the Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF), a coordinating mechanism for government ministries involved in the human services.

In 1998-99, a one-time mitigation payment was made to base hospital foundations in Regina and Saskatoon to offset losses due to gaming expansion.

In June 2000, government approved a three-year distribution strategy for the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2003. The fund was renamed the Community Initiatives Fund (previously known as the Associated Entities Fund) to better reflect the overall uses and recipients.

In 2000-01, the CIF was expanded to include problem gambling treatment and prevention initiatives as part of the provincial problem gambling strategy. The government directed \$500,000 per year to be allocated from the CIF for problem gambling prevention and treatment initiatives. A Cultural Facilities Grant program was introduced which ran for two years. In

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND PROGRAM HISTORY

addition, annual mitigation payments to the hospital foundations were approved for a five-year period ending in 2004-05.

In June 2002, government approved a new distribution strategy for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006. Program responsibilities were expanded to include several new, three-year program commitments to address physical activity, First Nations and Métis participation in sport, culture and recreation, and the provincial centennial. These new programs were announced as part of government's legacy initiatives for the province's centennial.

In summer 2005, the province conducted a written consultation process to gain input from municipalities and key stakeholders on the future direction of the CIF. This information was used to help direct policy and guide decisions with respect to the future use of CIF funds.

As a result of this review, a CIF purpose statement was approved in March 2006.

The purpose of the CIF is to provide grants for community initiatives that enhance human development and community vitality, focusing on:

- development opportunities for children, youth and families;
- increased positive activities for young people at the local level, including physical activity and community arts and culture activity;
- increased community leadership capacity, particularly leadership opportunities for youth; and
- inclusion of First Nations and Métis people as leaders in the delivery of community activities.

In March 2006, government also approved a two-year distribution strategy for the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2008. The fund focused on five program streams. In addition to the core CIF program commitments, the Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program and the physical activity/active living initiatives, originally introduced as three-year centennial initiatives, were continued.

In January 2007, government appointed four new board members and initiated an ongoing board renewal process. All board members have extensive experience as community volunteers. Board members come from a range of human service sectors and represent a balance of youth, Aboriginal, northern, urban and smaller community perspectives.

In 2007, the CIF board and the ministry signed a memorandum of understanding that includes policies to address respective roles, responsibilities, performance expectations, board terms of reference and the reporting relationship between the board and government.

In March 2008, government confirmed a one-year plan that continued all CIF programs and increased funds to the CIF Community Grant Program. This increase will allow the CIF to respond to a greater number of requests from youth and smaller communities. Direction was also given to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport to consult with communities in 2008 and prepare recommendations for a three-year plan to start April 1, 2009.

## **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND PROGRAM HISTORY**

The CIF distribution strategy is designed to be sustainable within resources of the fund and respond to community-identified priorities. In 2008-09 the CIF will continue to place emphasis on principles of community-based decision-making and access for smaller communities, urban aboriginal populations and youth.