

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2020-257
Report Date	October 15, 2020
Meeting Date	October 26, 2020
Service Area	Growth and Community Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Acadian Games 2021 – Potential Postponement

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<i>Amy McLennan</i>	<i>Jacqueline Hamilton / Phil Ouellette</i>	<i>John Collin</i>

RECOMMENDATION

Your City Manager recommends Common Council receive this report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Saint John, in partnership with the Town of Quispamsis, was scheduled to host the Acadian Games in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, postponement of those Games is being considered.

As outlined in the attached 'Acadian Games Letter to Partners', the Organizing Committee is asking its partners to consider the possibility of postponing the Games until 2022 or 2023, depending on the recommendations of Public Health. Once an official decision on postponement has been made by the Acadian Games Society later this year, an amended Memorandum of Understanding reflecting the change in dates will be brought to Common Council for approval.

It should be noted that a postponement does not entail any additional financial commitment from the City of Saint John; the payments agreed to in the original Memorandum of Understanding have been disbursed.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

On April 6, 2020, as recommended by the City Manager in the submitted report M&C 2020-91: Acadian Games MOU Amendment, Common Council approved the recommendation to postpone the Acadian Games until 2021 and authorized

the Mayor and Common Clerk to sign the amended Memorandum of Understanding attached to M&C 2020-91 relating to the postponement.

REPORT

The Acadian Games started in 1971. Saint John hosted these Games in 1996 and 2010. The four-day event would be anticipated to draw approximately 1,000 athletes, along with their families, from the Atlantic Provinces; this would result in a significant economic benefit for the region.

The Games include track and field, mountain biking, mini-handball, volleyball, soccer, badminton, and ultimate Frisbee. A demonstration sport and cultural competitions are also involved.

The City of Saint John, in partnership with the Town of Quispamsis, was originally scheduled to host the Acadian Games in 2020 (June 24-June 28). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Acadian Games Society made the decision earlier this year to postpone the Games until 2021 (June 30-July 4).

Given the progression of the pandemic, the Organizing Committee is now asking its partners to consider the possibility of postponing the Games until 2022 or 2023, depending on the recommendations of Public Health. Once an official decision on postponement has been made by the Acadian Games Society later this year, an amended Memorandum of Understanding reflecting the change in dates will be brought to Common Council for approval.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Hosting the Acadian Games aligns with Council's priority of a 'Vibrant, Safe Community', by investing in culture and recreation experiences that create a sense of community pride.

Partnering with the Town of Quispamsis on this event also supports a regional approach to recreation.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

For reference purposes, the attached amended MOU references both defined costs to the City, as well as opportunity and risk. The City contributed \$39,500 toward the Games; 50% of that contribution (\$19,750) was budgeted in each of the 2019 and 2020 General Fund Operating Budgets in order to distribute the contribution over two (2) fiscal years.

The City would be responsible for a share of any operating deficits resulting from the Games. It should be noted that City staff have been in regular attendance at meetings of the organizing committee and have been kept apprised of the

financials. Only one (1) of the previous editions of the Acadian Games resulted in a deficit and staff believes the risk of the Games incurring a deficit is very low. Additionally, the commitment from the Town of Quispamsis reduced the City's required investment; the partnership also mitigates deficit risk and profit sharing opportunity, using a 79/21 split based on population. .

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Input has from other service areas has not been sought for this report; however, General Counsel would be consulted prior to seeking Council approval on any amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding.

ATTACHMENTS

Acadian Games Letter to Partners – September 29, 2020

Amended Memorandum of Understanding to Host the 41st Acadian Games (Jeux de l'Acadie)