

St. Albert Community Foundation giving away \$325K

BY KEVIN MA
Staff Writer

The St. Albert Community Foundation hopes community service groups will step up this month to take some \$325,000 in federal cash off its hands.

The foundation announced Jan. 10 that it had received some \$325,000 from the federal government to help St. Albert-area non-profits, charities, and Indigenous government groups modernize to support Canada's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cash comes from the \$400 million federal Community Services Recovery Fund, which is being distributed by the Community Foundations of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, and United Way Centraide Canada.

The federal government created an Emergency Community Support Fund in 2020 to support charities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, said Jennifer McCurdy, executive director of the St. Albert Community Foundation. The foundation distributed some \$90,000 from that fund to St. Albert-area charities.

McCurdy said this new fund was open to a much wider array of community groups than its predecessor. Specifically, it was open to any community service organization in Canada that worked in arts, law, health, sports, housing, politics, religion, education, advocacy, the environment, volunteerism, or social services.

The fund offers community groups \$10,000 to \$500,000 to invest in train-

ing, equipment, pilot projects, and other items, according to its application guide. Eligible projects must start by May 1, 2023, and end by June 30, 2024.

Charities and non-profits are at the forefront of addressing community needs, but many are struggling to recover from the pandemic, St. Albert Community Foundation chair Doug Campbell said in a statement.

"Through the Community Services Recovery Fund, the St. Albert Community Foundation will be able to give organizations the support they need to serve our community."

Marla Poelzer, the executive director of the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation (which runs the Jessie's House shelter in Morinville), said it was awesome to hear that this new cash was available, and her group planned to apply for it.

"During the pandemic it was extremely difficult to do any of our regular fundraisers," said Poelzer, adding that they would probably need another five years to rebuild their fundraising efforts.

Poelzer said demand for space at Jessie's House definitely went up during the pandemic, with some 410 people admitted last year compared to 384 the year before. This new fund could help the group pay more competitive wages for staff, plan development of new shelters, and expand public education efforts on domestic violence.

Applications for the Community Services Recovery Fund are due Feb. 21, 2023. Visit communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca for details.

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ST. ALBERT INN AND SUITES
COCKTAILS 5:30 PM | DINNER 6:30 PM
LIVE BAND | SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION
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COMMUNITY SERVICES RECOVERY FUND

The Community Services Recovery Fund is a \$400 million investment from the Government of Canada to support charities and non-profits as they focus on how to adapt their organizations for pandemic recovery.

The St. Albert Community Foundation (SACF) has been allocated \$325,000 to support Community Service Organizations including non-profit organizations, Indigenous Governing Bodies and Registered Charities located in St. Albert and surrounding area.

To learn more about the program and eligibility, please go to <https://communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca/>

Applications are now being accepted through the National Application Portal found on the website. The deadline for applications is February 21, 2023

Funded by the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund