

BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development

B.C. COMBINES DIRECT ACCESS AND BINGO AFFILIATION GRANTS

The Province provides gaming grants to eligible non-profit organizations to support programs and services that benefit British Columbians and their communities.

Effective April 1, 2010, two gaming grant programs – direct access and bingo affiliation – will merge into a single community gaming grants program. The change will ensure all organizations have fair and equitable access to gaming grant funds. In addition, the application process will be simpler and clearer.

Under the former structure, the two programs were administered separately, resulting in duplication and some groups having access to a greater pool of money than others.

Transition Principles

Consolidating the two grant programs will not decrease any organization's funding that is within the current funding limit of \$100,000 per group or \$250,000 for groups designated as provincial organizations. Decreased funding may result from an organization applying in a sector that is no longer eligible for funding or submitting an incomplete application.

The Province will honour written, multi-year commitments. Once an agreement expires, eligible groups will be moved to the community gaming grants program and may apply for single-year grants.

Until May 31, 2010, new applications will be accepted on existing forms. Revised forms for the consolidated community gaming grants will be available April 1, 2010, at www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/grants/index.htm.

Impact on Organizations

The consolidation will not affect groups that have previously received direct access grants; their application timelines and criteria will remain the same.

For organizations that previously received bingo affiliation grants:

- The consolidation process may impact the timing of some grants.
- Application criteria remain fundamentally the same. Organizations will fall into a new sector and payment schedule.

- When a bingo affiliate is transitioned to the community gaming grants program, its eligibility for a grant will be considered according to the sector in which it applies.
- Former bingo affiliates will not need to apply for a community gaming grant for at least one year. The Province will use information previously submitted by groups to distribute grants to eligible organizations in 2010-2011 and, in some cases, 2011-2012.
- Organizations whose affiliation expires on or before March 31, 2011, do not need to apply for a grant until the appropriate period for their sector in fiscal 2011-2012. See application schedule available in Table 4 in the Reference Tables for 2010-2011 Community Gaming Grants at:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/docs/reference-tables-cgg-2010-2011.pdf.
- Organizations whose affiliation expires after March 31, 2011, do not need to apply for a grant until the appropriate period for their sector in fiscal 2012-2013. See application schedule available in Table 4 at:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/docs/reference-tables-cgg-2010-2011.pdf.
- If the move to the sector-based schedule leaves a group with a significant transitional funding issue, the Province may adjust the timing of the grant or provide an interim partial payment to help organizations on an individual basis.

A summary of the transition process for all groups is available in Table 3 at:
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/docs/reference-tables-cgg-2010-2011.pdf.

Funding Limits

Under the consolidated community gaming grants program, funding limits remain the same:

- Annual grants to a maximum of \$100,000 may be approved for any combination of a community organization's program costs and minor capital project costs.
- Annual funding to a maximum of \$250,000 may be approved for province-wide programs.

Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)

In the past, some PACs could apply for funding under both bingo affiliation and direct access while others could apply only for direct access grants. This resulted in differences in payment amounts and the timing of payments.

Under the community gaming grant program, all PACs that apply will receive the same amount of funding (\$20 per student in 2010-2011) and will receive the funding in September.

This applies to all PACs that formerly received bingo affiliation funding, including those whose affiliations have not yet expired.

Service Clubs

All service clubs will now be able to retain up to seven per cent of community gaming grants to cover their administrative costs. They may also make donations for medical equipment.

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