

# Briefing Note

## For Decision

NOTE ID: BN007

March 17, 2025

**MEMO TO:** The Deputy Minister

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Grant to the Wild Rose Women's Institute

### 1. SUMMARY

The Department is recommending the renewal of the \$55,000 grant under The Community Development Fund for the Wild Rose Women's Institute to continue its various programs as outlined in its submission. Funds are available under the program and all conditions for eligibility have been met.

### 3. BACKGROUND

This application will permit the Institute to continue the various, well-received community development programs in various communities in southern Alberta. The Institute's programs include:

- Development of programs for families to settle in smaller communities in southern Alberta,
- Information resources for women in communities on resources for their self-development, building connectivity with other families and accessing community resources,
- Conducting community-centered research to develop rural and small community capacity to support family and economic development.
- This program has been in place for 8 years. Its renewal, based on program criteria, has been reviewed every year. Further, there have been two formal evaluations of the program, one conducted jointly with the province, all affirming the quality of the program and the results.

### 4. CONSIDERATIONS

There is wide local and provincial support for this proposal. The Premier of Alberta has written you expressing her hope to see the program continue and Alberta's readiness to continue its funding of \$35,000. Three M.P.s from the area have written you in support. The President of the University of Lethbridge, which works with the Institute in developing community resources, has also written in support, indicating a continuation of in-kind support. Finally, the Mellrose Foundation, which supports many community programs, is committed to \$25,000 in funding. All the criteria outlined in the program have been met. Your Advisory Committee has reviewed the application and supports its approval. A risk involved with this application is that it continues

annualized support for a community program will be interpreted as a permanent program support. This is a challenge common to such successful community programs. Given the various sources of funding, this group knows how to make applications and gather support. It would not be the moment to consider this issue, but it is one that we as a department need to bring forward ideas for resolving.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

Aside from being a sound application with extensive partner support, this application is an opportunity for the Minister to show her support to a strong community partner in Alberta. The renewal announcement is a positive way for the Minister to show her support for this program in this part of the country.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Department and the Advisory Committee recommend approval of the application. The Department will work with the Minister's staff on an announcement strategy if the Minister wishes.