

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.  
 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 26 September 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Acting Commissioner, Social Services

SUBJECT/OBJET **SAGE YOUTH - JEUNESSE SAGE**

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### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That Community Services Committee receive this report for information.**

### **BACKGROUND**

On 15 June 2000 Community Services Committee approved "That the Community Services Committee refer the request from Sage Youth - Jeunesse sage to the Social Services Department for consideration under the parameters of the National Child Benefit Reinvestment Fund".

Sage Youth - Jeunesse sage requested an amount of \$40,000 to help provide a six to eight week program of free literacy, academic and life skills instruction for high risk newcomer children between the ages of 5 and 18 and aim to work with between 300 to 400 children by January 2001. The program aims to ensure the children attain a grade 1 literacy. In addition, children are introduced to arts, poetry, culture, and social and life skills. This and the self-esteem and confidence gained by the children are believed to help them to integrate into the educational system in their new country and enhance academic success and long-term job prospects as well as integrating to the mainstream culture.

The life-skills workshops provide an opportunity for the children and their parents to meet with other community members such as the police, teachers and health care educators to discuss a wide range of issues from safety and drug-abuse to adult literacy and nutrition. Students are encouraged to volunteer in their neighbourhoods and to become respectful contributors to the well being of their communities.

## DISCUSSION

Sage Youth - Jeunesse sage appears to meet the basic funding requirements under the National Child Benefit Reinvestment Fund. It is a registered non-profit community organization which provides a program that support families build their capacity. Additional criteria considered when considering a new program for funding is collaboration with other organizations, no duplication of service, and efficient use of available resources. For instance, the Frontier College provides tutors and the Catholic Immigration Centre, Strathcona Heights City Living and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre provide space for programming. For the year 1999-2000 Sage Youth -Jeunesse sage received the amount of \$50,000 from The Trillium Foundation and various amounts from additional sources for a total of \$83,200. The organization has leveraged in-kind donations in the form of volunteer hours, space and supplies costed at over \$64,000, and works in collaboration with other organizations, thus avoiding duplication of efforts. Letters of support from the Frontier College, the Catholic Immigration Centre and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre indicate a high level of appreciation and gratitude towards agency accomplishments.

For year 2000, National Child Benefit Reinvestment funds that help families build capacity are all committed. NCB funds available funds for 2001 will be transferred to the Success by Six Program. Sage Youth, which serves children from 5 to 18, are not eligible to this funding source because of the age criteria. A process is in place to invite community organizations to submit applications for 2001 project funding before 15 November 2000. Information material on this program was provided to the organization. Sage Youth -Jeunesse sage will have the opportunity to apply to this funding source as it continues to make efforts to access more stable funding.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There was no public consultation for this report.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

There is no financial consideration for this report.

## CONCLUSION

Sage Youth -Jeunesse sage appears to provide an important and unique service to newcomer youth who need literacy, academic and life skills training in order to be better prepared for entering the local school system and to help integrate in their new environment as well as providing support to both youth and their parents through information workshops.

National Child Benefit funds that help families build capacity are committed for 2000. However, Sage Youth - Jeunesse Sage is eligible to apply for project funding for 2001.

*Approved by  
Garry Armstrong*