

## #5 “How Do We pay For It?” Panel Presentation

### SUMMARY

On Monday evening, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Gayle Stewart (VP, WDRA) welcomed the almost 30 attendees. Before she introduced the 3 guest speakers, she reminded everyone that the WDRA has 2 types of expenditures: a) Programming costs, and b) Infrastructure (operating costs & asset replacement).

Programming is generally covered by fee generation and supported by profit centres like the bar and kitchen, and ice rental & hockey fees. But programming could also be financially supported through special funding programs designed to improve the health and wellbeing of residents. **Shawna Babcock**, Executive Director, KidActive and Healthy Communities networks, addressed these opportunities. Shawna also discussed grants available from the provincial ministries, particularly for Health Promotion programming.

Infrastructure funding is supported by fundraising events and extra revenues from programming above, but other capital sources will be required for larger amounts over the next 10 – 20 years. Loans and grants will need to be accessed. **Bruce McIntyre**, Grants Co-ordinator for Renfrew County discussed grants available under the Ontario Trillium Foundation. And **Mike Thompson**, Business Development Officer, Community Futures Development Corporation, described loans available under the Eastern Ontario Development Program (OEDP).

**Mike Thompson:** The EODP is a federal government initiative that promotes socio-economic development in rural Eastern Ontario. Their priority is to invest in community projects, with a focus on not-for-profit organizations among others. There are 2 types of term loans available under EODP:

- a) Social Enterprise Loan:
  - a. for expansion, renovations, improvements
  - b. Interest rate : available at less than prime
  - c. Up to \$150,000
  - d. Flexible repayment terms (based on operations cash flow)
  - e. Repayment term: Up to 15 yrs
  - f. no prepayment fees
  - g. adequate security required
- b) Access to Capital Loan:
  - a. For new capital assets
  - b. Interest rate: 0%
  - c. Up to \$25,000
  - d. Flexible repayment terms (based on operations cash flow)
  - e. Repayment term: 1-5 yrs
  - f. Adequate security required

Application for these loans requires a comprehensive 3 year business plan. A board of 8 individuals meet on the first Thursday of each month to review loan applications.

**Bruce McIntyre:** The Ontario Trillium Foundation is a provincial government agency with the following Mission: To build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector, through investments in community-based initiatives. They do this through capital grants of up to \$150,000. Funds are available for capital, project or operating costs, excluding new construction. Funding is focused toward: a) Healthier and more active residents and b) more effective volunteers, with more people engaged in the community. Their strategic opportunity looks at collaboration of initiatives in the not-for-profit sector. The initiatives must be “inclusive and accessible to all”, with no physical or non-physical barriers. Applications are strongest when more partners are included.

There have been about 40 applications per year, with competition very strong. Applications must be of high quality and demonstrate a lasting impact to many. There are 3 application deadlines per year: March 1, July 1, and November 1.

**Shawna Babcock:** Shawna talked about building cross sector collaboration and partnerships to reach common goals:

- Healthy, Engaged Children
- Healthy Supportive Communities
- Higher Quality of Life for everyone
- Positive Change in Our Communities
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Communication
- Sustainability

Through the Ministry of Health and Sport, special grants have been made available from time to time to address the health and well being of residents through community partnering. Renfrew County has proven to have more health issues than elsewhere in Ontario, and in fact Canada. However, until the election is complete this fall, no financial assistance programs are presently available.

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