



Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Special Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, July 29, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Via Videoconferencing

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** (Motion required)

- 2. Community Capacity Needs:** Mayor Cecil P. Clarke (see page 3)

Adjournment



**Cape Breton Regional Municipality
320 Esplanade
Sydney, NS B1P 7B9**

MEMO

To: **Mayor and Council**
Submitted by: **Demetri Kachafanas, K.C., CAO**
Date: **July 29, 2025**
Subject: **Annual Surplus**

All Council:

I have been provided with the attached report outlining the surplus funds for the recent fiscal period.

While this matter will be brought forward for a more detailed presentation and discussion by the Chief Financial Officer, I would like to note for your awareness that the total annual surplus amount is **\$4,188,629**.

The report is being released at this time so that Council may make a fully informed decision as it relates to the matter before them today.

Respectfully,

Demetri Kachafanas, K.C., CAO

Cape Breton Regional Municipality - Operating Fund
Year end March 31, 2025 - Update

March 31, 2025 Deficit per SAP as of reporting date (July 28, 2025)	(10,143,959)
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Adjustments pending:

Wastewater revenues and expenditures to reallocated to Wastewater Operating Fund	
Revenue (GL 5130 Sewer Permits)	(112,483)
Expenses (Cost centre "Quality Control")	4,152,983
Waste Water Admin Fee (cost recovery)	6,837,839
Fiona DFAA Recovery (estimate) 2024-25	835,000
2024 Snow Event DFAA recovery - 2023-24 Personnel & Contracted Services (estimated)	2,154,038
2024 Snow Event DFAA recovery - 2023-24 internal equipment costs (estimated)	1,065,210
Due to Promoter reconciliation entry	(600,000)
Total adjustments pending	14,332,588

Revised CBRM Operating Surplus - March 31, 2025	4,188,629
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Explanation of net changes in reported surplus:

Revised CBRM Operating Surplus - March 31, 2025	4,188,629
Projected 2024-25 surplus reported to Council - June 10, 2025	2,382,777
Net Change	1,805,852
Difference comprised of the following:	
Additional DFAA Recovery - 2024 Snow Event (internal equipment costs)	1,065,210
Wastewater admin fee variance	410,000
Allocation of Curling event funding from 2023-24	325,000
	1,800,210



City Hall
320 Esplanade
Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

Councillor Agenda Request Form

Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm seven days before the meeting)

Late Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon the day before the meeting)

Request from the Floor:
(New Business)
- Announcement
- Referral
- Submit Petition
- Notice of Motion

Date of Council Meeting: July 29, 2025

Subject: Community Capacity Funding Requests for Fiscal 2025-26

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Council, allocate \$2,782,000 from the 2024-25 operating surplus to support regional, divisional, and district priorities and help community organizations continue delivering services and programs as presented.

Details:

The following one-time allocations are recommended within the increased funding, noting that community organizations are required to adhere to CBRM Municipal Grants Program requirements, and grant disclosure requirements as in Section 65C of the *Municipal Government Act* as well as related CBRM Policies:

- Cape Breton Exhibition: \$500,000**

CBRM Request: \$800,000 (25-26 Fiscal \$500,000; 26-27 Fiscal \$300,000)
Province NS: \$1.3 million
Government of Canada: \$800,000
Total Project Cost: \$3.2 million

The Cape Breton Exhibition sustained substantial structural damage during hurricane Fiona and subsequent impacts from Snowmageddon. These events, in addition to historical operation and maintenance challenges necessitate significant upgrades.

- Cape Breton University – Forever Campaign: \$400,000**

Council, by motion on March 18, 2025, approved supporting Cape Breton's University's request for \$400,000 in support of their Forever Campaign. President Dingwall presented before Council receiving approval of funding, however the allocation requires Council's direction.

- **CBRM 30th Anniversary: \$500,000**

August 1st, 2025 marks the 30th Anniversary of the creation of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. Over those years, many challenges and accomplishments have been realized, with growth and optimism driving change and development today. Due to Covid the 25th Anniversary was unable to be publicly recognized or celebrated.

To recognize and celebrate this milestone occasion many events can be undertaken at the district, divisional and regional level.

\$120,000 (\$10,000 per district). District events in partnership with community organizations and not for profits will follow funding policy and criteria to be presented by staff and adopted by Council.

\$90,000 (\$30,000 per division). Signature community events will be planned by the Recreation Department for the North, Central and East divisions. These events will feature local artists, artisans and creative talent all found within the CBRM.

\$240,000 New Year's Eve 30th Anniversary Celebration. The CBRM will build on the success of the 20th Anniversary New Year's Eve event that brought thousands of citizens together for the largest civic event to date in the CBRM. The 30th Anniversary will leverage corporate and community sponsors and volunteers to create an equally memorable experience.

\$40,000 will be invested to recognize, celebrate, commemorate and honour outstanding citizens and organizations through a 30th Anniversary Recognition Program. Details and criteria will be brought forward to Council for adoption.

\$10,000 will be invested into the establishment of a CBRM Honours & Awards program in recognition of citizen achievement and accomplishment. Three categories will be created: Service, Bravery and Honour. Medallions and accompanying pins will be issued as per criteria to be adopted by Council.

Public Works: \$500,000

Funds will be directed towards additional sidewalk installation, rehabilitation and repair, along with road improvements and repair, as well as working with Parks, Recreation & Buildings to provide accessible, paved, entry to some facilities. The additional resource will leverage existing operating funding to achieve between \$700,000 - \$800,000 in improved outcomes.

- **Louisbourg Playhouse: \$100,000**

The CBRM owns the Louisbourg Playhouse property operated by a local not for profit organization. The roof needs replacement along with other

structural repairs and maintenance.

- **Community Rinks: \$300,000**

Sydney Mines, Whitney Pier and Dominion rinks each require differing levels of support to maintain operational and capital needs. \$100,000 per rink will provide necessary improvements and upgrades. The New Waterford community arena is being assessed separately by the Board and CBRM Parks, Recreation and Buildings. Upgrades to New Waterford are anticipated to be upwards of \$10 Million.

- **Cape Breton Search & Rescue: \$150,000**

Cape Breton Search & Rescue receives an annual funding allocation of \$25,000 since 2013 for operational support. CBSAR has 6 response and support vehicles that need replacement. Of those, a Logistics Support Unit is the number one priority (2024 reclassified Bluebird Bus) with a 5 to 8 life span.

- **Community Organizational Support: \$332,000**

Through district budget meetings, community and stakeholder consultations, multiple community not for profits and organizations need supports to continue providing programming and services with requests under \$100,000. Requests include but are not limited to: Two Rivers Wildlife Park, Savoy Theatre, Sydney BIDA, North Sydney Legion, Townhouse, Glace Bay Heritage Museum, Georges River Boat Club, Glace Bay Legion, East Bay Legion, and MacNeil Cove Boat Club.

Parks, Recreation and Grounds in collaboration with the Municipal Grant Program Committee will oversee project delivery and reporting.

Rationale:

Non-profit community organizations play a vital role in enhancing quality of life, promoting social inclusion, and addressing both immediate and long-term needs, particularly for vulnerable populations. However, these organizations often face significant funding challenges and rely on support to sustain essential services and infrastructure.

The CBRM Municipal Grant Fund, which provides financial support to such organizations, is currently capped and consistently receives more funding requests than it can accommodate. As CBRM marks its 30th anniversary, there is a unique opportunity to consider a one-time allocation of funds to support a range of community initiatives.

The challenge lies in striking a fair balance, ensuring the sustainability of a diverse range of organizations while recognizing their individual circumstances and needs. CBRM has already committed funding to Cape Breton University and holds ownership responsibilities for several community facilities. In addition, there is an

opportunity to provide variable, strategic contributions to non-profits that are delivering critical services across the municipality.

To address these needs, the proposed one-time increase would account for:

- Previously committed funding,
- Identified cost-shared community infrastructure projects, and
- Modest allocations to non-profits that have submitted requests to CBRM.
- This increase would also support the organization of regional and district-level events in celebration of CBRM's 30th anniversary.

This funding support provides balancing efforts for CBRM owned facilities, as well as facilities within the community that provide critical services.

*Mayor Cecil P. Clarke
Date*

Received by Clerk's Department (date):