

Subject: Fee Waiver Requests – Kiwanis of Eastern Canada & Caribbean District Convention

Report to: Niagara Transit Commission Board

Report date: **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

Recommendations

1. That the Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board **APPROVE** the Charter Fee Grant Waiver request submitted by Kiwanis of Eastern Canada & Caribbean District Convention organizing committee in the amount of \$1,550.00; and
2. That the General Manager **BE DIRECTED** to waive the Charter Fee.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to waive the Charter Fee for the Kiwanis of Eastern Canada & Caribbean District Convention Organizing Committee in accordance with the approved policy.
- On October 24, 2023, the NTC Board approved NTC 13-2023 Niagara Transit Commissions Charter Policy.
- The Kiwanis of Eastern Canada & Caribbean District organizing committee is requesting two buses to shuttle convention participants between the convention hotel and the Greg Frewin Theatre.

Financial Considerations

Included in the 2025 budget proposal is \$100,000 to cover charter fee grant waivers. The cost of this charter is \$1,550.00, which if approved, would be within the proposed operating budget.

Analysis

The Kiwanis of Eastern Canada & Caribbean District organizing committee is requesting two buses to transport convention participants from the convention hotel to the Greg Frewin Theatre.

This service is to be provided on May 30, 2025. The rates are calculated using the proposed 2025 charter rate at the time of this report preparation.

Event coordinators have requested this charter and fee grant waiver based on the following parameters:

- **How will your activity or event enhance recreation and community services in the Region of Niagara?**

The Eastern Canada and Caribbean Kiwanis District Convention to be held in May of 2025, will enhance the highlights of Niagara Falls and area. It also will outline the work of the Kiwanis Clubs in Niagara area, who work diligently to assist children locally and globally.

- **Please describe the projected social, cultural, economic, and environmental impact that the activity or event will have on the Region and its residents.**

We are expecting 700 delegates and guests to attend the District Convention. A number of the delegates will be from the Caribbean Countries in the EC & C District. The delegates from the Caribbean, will arrive before and stay after the Convention. So, there will definitely be an impact economically and the fact that the forums offered at the DCON, educate Kiwanis members is beneficial to the Clubs in the area.

- **What will the impact on the event be if the fee is not waived?**

The waiver of the fee would be most welcome. The other opportunity, that Niagara Transit could take advantage of is to be a sponsor of the Convention. There are three levels of sponsorship - Gold - \$2,000 Silver \$1,000 and Bronze \$500. We would be happy to discuss sponsorship for Niagara Transit at the EC &C District Convention.

- **Are you seeking funding from any other sources? (Fundraising, grants, sponsorships)**

Yes, we are seeking sponsorship.

Alternatives Reviewed

The Board may choose not to approve this request in which case the event organizers will have to pay the charter fees or look for additional charter service providers.

Relationship to Niagara Transit Commission Strategic Priorities

Customer Focus: "Community Engagement and Partnerships." The provision of this request presents an excellent opportunity for the NTC to engage with the community it serves.

Affordability: "Breaking Down Financial Barriers for Inclusive/Universal Access." The cost of the Charter, if waived, provides the opportunity for community volunteers to attend this event with a free transportation option.

Other Pertinent Reports

- [NTC 13-2023 Niagara Transit Commission Charter Policy](https://pub-ntc.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=88) (https://pub-ntc.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=88)



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Appendices

Appendix 1 Fee Waiver Request Form – Kiwanis of Eastern Canada and Caribbean