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Municipal Council
Municipality of the District of Barrington
2447 Highway 3,
P.O. Box 100,
Barrington, Nova Scotia
BoW 1E0

May 29th, 2021

RE: Grant Application for 2021

Upon review of the recent Committee of the Whole meeting minutes, it appears that our organization will receive \$500.00 for our grant, which is half of the amount we applied for. While I understand that the municipality has to be fair and consistent when making decisions for granting monies to organizations, I still must express my disappointment in the amount that we will receive. While our organization is thankful for any support we receive, I implore you to reconsider our application and consider giving the Shelburne County Archives the total \$1000.00 requested. I ask you to do so for the following reasons:

The current Covid-19 restrictions have hurt the tourism industry and Nova Scotia heritage industries particularly hard, our society included. ***One of the most significant setbacks has been the loss of three summer students.*** Two of which were a direct cause of the travel restrictions as both of our students are from the area but attend university in Saint John, NB and PEI, respectively. They could not find a place to isolate themselves alone, nor did they receive timely permission from the provincial government to travel home. The third student was because of a delay in federal grant funding, which we still have not heard back for. Because we could not guarantee a position without these grants, this student understandably had to take another job. We are now looking at another whole spring and summer season without providing complete services to our members and the public, which will be the second summer in a row.

Moreover, besides a couple of government grants, we apply for student positions and other costs, ***we do not receive any additional funding assistance.*** Other Tri-County museums received funding from the provincial government for staffing and operational costs. The **fully municipally funded archives** at the Argyle Township Court House Archives (*interestingly, our collection rivals, if not is more extensive*), including three full-time staff - one is an Archivist. The Shelburne County Archives receives no such financial support of this kind. All of our money comes from research service requests, book sales and fundraising. All of this is done to preserve the collection we have. We also do not qualify for many of the current federal grants

Shelburne County, NS



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Available due to the nature of our society being an archive and genealogy society; if we were a museum, then this would be an entirely different matter.

Our archives are essential to the preservation of local and family heritage and are often overlooked. While we do not carry a collection of exhibits or “things” like a museum, still, we house the documentary history of Shelburne County. Our collection is quite extensive and rivals that of more enormous archives found in the cities. I cannot express enough that Shelburne County would lose a vast majority of its historical documents, documented history, including family history, if we had a fire or another disaster. Because of this, we are seeking federal funding we may qualify for to digital preserve our collections and for the proper storage of delicate documents and photographs. This is a significant undertaking, but I cannot stress enough the importance of digitizing and becoming relevant to the 21st century, leading me to my next point.

The Covid-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of computer, technology, and digital platforms for our organization to remain relevant, vital, and grow in the 21st century. We recently updated our website, opened an online bookstore, and tried to ramp up our social media presence, but there is still so much more that needs to be done. ***We are run solely by volunteers. We do have any full-time or part-time staff. Because we rely on volunteers, we need to work from a distance and be mobile to provide services.*** We want to offer more educational opportunities and promote Shelburne County heritage by using digital media and other avenues such as Youtube, podcasts, webinars etc. We are also experiencing a backlog in our email, book orders and research requests. Our data entry is behind because we cannot be in person to get it done and need a way for our volunteers to work from home. We cannot have a digital presence or function without the technology to do so; we applied for a \$1000.00 grant to purchase an iPad, other technology, accessories and programs required to do the above mentioned.

In light of the above reasons, I humbly request that you reconsider our application request. We, as a society, are thankful and appreciative of your ongoing support.

Kind Regards,

Laura Nicoll
President