

# Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

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**Subject:** Disposition of Donated Funds – Big Canoe Project

**Memo No:** 2025-M-181

**Date:** August 14, 2025

**Prepared By:** Sabrina Pandolfo – Clerk/Deputy CAO

## Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-181 regarding the status of the Big Canoe Project;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to return the original five donations of \$2,500 each (totaling \$12,500) to the respective donors;

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipality absorb the previously expended project costs in the amount of \$2,674.30;

AND FURTHER THAT the trust account for the Big Canoe Project be closed following disbursement of refunds.

## Background

In or around 2020, a Temagami resident initiated the “Big Canoe Project,” a community effort to construct a large-scale canoe as a cultural landmark for the Municipality. A volunteer group was assembled to support the initiative, and the Municipality of Temagami agreed to hold all project funds in trust until required

The project, through generous donations, raised \$12,600. These funds were deposited into a dedicated trust account administered by the Municipality.

Between 2021 and 2022, the following project-related expenditures were processed from the trust account:

Year	Description	Vendor	Amount (CAD)
2021	Supplies and materials	Home Hardware	\$397.49
2021	Additional materials	Home Hardware	\$1,028.21
2021	Website subscription	Squarespace	\$420.00
2022	Lumber and adhesive	[Local Supplier]	\$615.35
2022	Website/domain renewal	Squarespace	\$213.25
Total Project Costs			\$2,674.30

More recently, there have been informal discussions within the community regarding alternative uses for the donated funds. Two primary suggestions have emerged: (1) allocating the funds toward the development of a boat washing station, for which some donors have reportedly expressed support, and (2) reviving the original Big Canoe Project, which others have indicated they are still willing to support. However, with these competing interests and in the absence of a clear consensus or formal direction, staff believe it would be most prudent to return the original donations to the donors directly. This would allow each donor to make an informed decision about whether they wish to contribute to either initiative—or another of their choosing—on their own terms.

## Conclusion

In light of the prolonged inactivity and absence of confirmation that the project will resume, it is appropriate that the Municipality:

- Return all original donations in full to the five remaining donors (total: \$12,500),
- Absorb the costs already expended (\$2,674.30), and
- Close the trust account following refund distribution.

Staff will initiate the process of contacting donors to confirm mailing details and issue cheques accordingly. Any undeliverable or unclaimed funds will be brought back to Council for further direction.