



Scouts Canada - Central Escarpment Council

Memorandum

TO: Area Commissioners

FROM: Elizabeth Barrow, Council Executive Director

DATE: October 7, 2010

RE: Request for Clarification around Council position on Moledina Fund and membership fee based Subsidy Programs

Scouts Canada believes strongly that social and financial circumstances should not act as barriers to youth enrolment within our programs. Through the generous donations and support of numerous families and community members, Central Escarpment Council is proud to offer financial assistance to local Scouting groups who are helping youth members who would otherwise be unable to afford to participate in Scouts Canada programs.

A subsidy program to reduce financial burdens has been developed at a Council level to help local groups accommodate local members who may need fee subsidies, reduced fees, termed repayment or other forms of fee support.

It is recommended that existing programs such as the "No One Left Behind" from the Scouts Canada Foundation should be applied for before accessing the Central Escarpment Council's program. Please note that the No One Left Behind fund will cover *up to \$60* on a first come, first server basis and that application to the fund is not a guarantee of approval of this funding.

Other local programs offered through municipalities and community organizations or agencies should be researched with the assistance of your local Area Team or Council Field Executive.

Central Escarpment Council may subsidize a portion of the remaining balance of the membership fee if a local group is unable to provide complete assistance.

Our philosophy around financial assistance is that wherever possible, the family will pay one third of the remaining balance; the Group will pay one third of the balance; and the fund will cover the remaining third of the balance. Circumstances where amounts in excess of one third of the remaining balance are being requested will be considered on a case by case basis.

Wherever possible, the Council recommends that Group Commissioners speak privately with families who have indicated there is a financial need to discuss confidentially the nature of those needs, and to determine what contribution a family can make – whether in one lump sum payment, or by way of a payment plan over a period of time. This will assist the Group in determining which type of subsidies, and in what amount will be necessary to assist youth in need in enrolling in our programs.

Groups wishing to access subsidy funding for their members will be required to complete the Charter Renewal process (including submission of their annual financial statement) prior to requesting subsidy at the beginning of a Scouting season. Groups should ensure that members seeking subsidy are registered and 'Active' on the MMS prior to submitting application(s).

All requests for subsidy from groups will be considered on a first come, first serve basis and the eligibility of any group to access subsidy funding will be determined both annually during registration collection sessions, and as a result of any subsequent applications.