

Manitoba Lotteries Bingos Volunteer Program Updates

<http://www.mbl.ca/content/bingo-volunteer-program-funding-continue>

Thursday, February 16, 2017

COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT GROUPS TO CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES BINGO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Electronic bingo resulted in necessary changes to administration of the program

Funding for the Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Bingo Volunteer Program is continuing through the 2017-18 fiscal year, with money now being provided directly to umbrella organizations who will allocate the funds for local community and non-profit organizations without the requirement of volunteer service.

"With the declining popularity of paper bingo at Winnipeg's casinos, the number of volunteers required for each bingo shift dropped over time and the requirement for volunteers has now disappeared," said Diana Soroka, Director Community Support. "Community organizations that were allocated bingos between January and March 31, 2017 were notified earlier this year that they would receive their funds without the expectation of volunteer work. Money earmarked for the Bingo Volunteer Program for the 2017-18 fiscal year will be provided directly to umbrella groups that oversee the volunteer allocations."

The Bingo Volunteer Program has been in place since 1984 and provides approximately \$4 million annually to about 400 community and non-profit groups.

"The Bingo Volunteer Program is undergoing a necessary assessment in order to ensure that support for local community and non-profit organizations makes sense as bingo players move to electronic bingo and the need for volunteers is eliminated," said Soroka. "We have been in contact with the umbrella groups and they are pleased that the funding will continue for the next year."

Please contact the MHC Office which is working with Sport Manitoba to continue to distribute funds through the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

MHC Bingo Policy

MHC revised its Bingo Policy in order to meet Sport Manitoba and Manitoba Lotteries requirements as of 2017. Clubs must follow this policy in order to receive bingo funding from MHC, as this funding is allocated to MHC by Sport Manitoba from Manitoba Lotteries. Please read carefully the MHC Bingo Policy below.

- Due to the implementation of digital bingo machines in the casinos, MLCC will not be requiring physical volunteer attendance at a bingo in order to receive the funds in the 2017 funding year.
- In lieu of physical volunteer attendance at a bingo, clubs will be required to submit an application form for the funds. Each MHC Member Club with a valid 2017 Club Membership is eligible for up to \$500 of funding from MLCC under this program. Previously bingos varied between \$390 and \$650 depending on which type of bingo it was, and the type of bingo you were assigned depended on bingo ladder rotational assignments. The \$500 amount set this year is the median amount between the previous high and low bingo amounts to make it an equitable distribution.
- Clubs are required to submit the MHC Bingo Program Fund Application Form by January 31st, 2018.
- Funds are required to be used by December 31st, 2018 with the Bingo Expenditures Report Form submitted. Activities listed on the application form may have already occurred in 2017 or may be planned for 2018.
- The application will show that the club will continue use the MLCC funds in the same way as it was used in past years per MLCC program requirements. There are two categories for which clubs can submit expenses:
 - Activity 1 (Competitions/Clinic)
 - Facility Rental
 - Equipment Rental and Materials
 - Honoraria
 - Accommodation
 - Travel
 - Activity 2 (General Operation Costs)
 - Maintenance (Club owned/Leased Property or Facilities)
 - Awards/Volunteer Recognition
 - Scholarships
 - Printing/Postage
 - Memberships
 - Other
- Any member club that does not accept and/or abide by the Bingo Policy or submit a MHC Bingo Program Fund Application Form will not receive 2017 funding.
- Any member club applying for bingo program funds will only receive funding if it is able to demonstrate sufficient eligible expenditure as determined by MHC following MB Lotteries specifications. A bingo expenditure sheet** will be provided for this purpose

The bingo expenditure sheet** is provided by email to each member club participating in the program and is also available at www.manitobahorsecouncil.ca for easy access. This sheet must be completed and submitted to MHC in order to obtain bingo funding as per below

**** Mandatory Bingo Expenditure Sheet**

Member clubs which have applied and had their MHC Bingo Program Fund Application Form approved must complete and submit a bingo expenditure sheet to MHC by the end of the funding year (December 31st 2018).

This sheet must detail:

- The aspect/s of the member club's activities in the year for which funds are being claimed – eg show organization, clinics, general operating costs, volunteer recognition
- Provide some detail on the activity ie dates, location, numbers of attendee, clinicians used etc
- For each activity, provide the amount of eligible expenditure being claimed

Other Information

- Bingo revenues will not be paid to a member club until the bingo expenditure sheet is received and approved by MHC
- Bingo revenue paid to a member club in the bingo financial year (April 2017-March 2018) will not exceed \$500.
- MHC determines the eligibility of a member club's reported expenditure as per MB Lotteries requirements
- A member club failing to apply for its allocated bingo revenue before January 31st, 2018 will have its bingo revenues re-allocated to MHC