



# Elephant Thoughts

## Educational Outreach

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April 16, 2019

Town of the Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310  
Thornbury, ON  
N0H 2P0

Dear Town Council,

Re: Request for Deputation

I wish to appear as a deputation at the April 24 Council Meeting on behalf of Elephant Thoughts to ask that Council reconsider the recommendation of the April 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole regarding the Grants and Donations Program. Elephant Thoughts requested a grant in the amount of \$4430, but the Committee of the Whole has provided a recommendation not to support Elephant Thoughts request for a grant.

It is our understanding that one of the points of conflict in the budget was salaries and benefits. To clarify these are honorariums to go directly to elders who are participating in the events as well as staff who would be facilitating The Indigenous Journey workshops at the events. They are not in any way full time staff salaries but rather monies that would be directly funding these specific events. The admin request of \$645 is approximately 13% of overall costs.

It is our intention that a deputation will provide more detailed information regarding the nature of the grant as well as details surrounding the grant budget. It is our hope that council may choose to reconsider supporting this grant request in the 2019-20 fiscal. Based on consultation with a cross section of community members as well as attendance of community members at Indigenous focused events, it is our belief that that many citizens of the Town of Thornbury and surrounding areas are in favor of Indigenous Life Festival events and would support this request. There is a clear desire for community members to learn and understand more about Indigenous history, culture and perspectives in an interactive and open environment. As well Thornbury would benefit from the increased visitors, (Indigenous Life Festival is a member of and supported by Indigenous Tourism Ontario), and from the cultural interaction and relationship building that the festival provides.

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10138 Highway 26 East, Collingwood, ON L9Y 3Z1

P: 705.444.2012 E: 705.444-2214

[www.elephantthoughts.com](http://www.elephantthoughts.com)

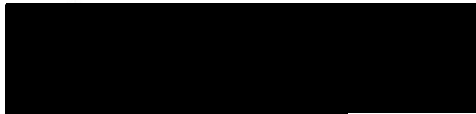
charitable registration #85213 9336 RR0001

The B.I.A is 100% supportive of this grant request and has committed funds of up to \$11,000 for Indigenous Life Festival events to be held in Thornbury based on the support of this grant request of Council. The BIA cannot afford to support these events without the support of the Town but recognizes the need. A letter of support from the Thornbury BIA is attached to this request.

For further information on the success of previous Indigenous Life Festival events in the surrounding area please visit <http://www.indigenouslifestival.com/>

We sincerely appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,



Lisa Farano  
Co-founder, Elephant Thoughts



April 3, 2019

To: Grants and Donations Committee

Re: Thornbury Indigenous Life Festival Event application

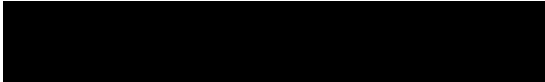
I am writing in support of this application. There is a great deal of interest in all things indigenous. To have a festival in Thornbury celebrating indigenous life would not only connect our local population to our indigenous neighbours but would also attract visitors to Thornbury.

Thornbury would benefit from the increased visitors and from the cultural interaction that the festival provides. Lisa Farano has a proven track record of bringing our cultures together and this event would be a great addition to the experience of Thornbury.

The Thornbury BIA cannot currently afford the cost of the festival on its own and will only proceed with the festival with the support of the Grants and Donations Committee.

The Indigenous Life Festival is a member of Indigenous Tourism Ontario and will attract new tourists to this region through this partnership. This is a great opportunity to be part of it.

Sincerely,

  
George Matamoros, Chair Thornbury BIA.

PO Box 662, Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0