

late handout #1  
Feb. 23 / 2016  
Standing Committee

Greetings Mr. Mayor and Counselors

I am writing to you on behalf of the "Sonfest" committee. The Son fest is a free, family friendly Christian music festival which is in its sixth year of operation in Hinton. In addition to music, The Son fest also provides camping, games and activities all weekend to create an atmosphere encouraging family time and values.

The Sonfest has grown each year in both attendance and stature, as the quality of music performance and activities continues to improve. Last year we brought in seven out of town performers, (either bands, duos or singles) one of which went on to win \$75000 in the "Peak Performance Project".

*ROYAL FOUNDRY*  
In addition to bringing a growing number of people to Hinton each year, the Son fest gives back to the community by donating 10% of its operating budget. We are not just about music and fun, but believe in making a difference in our community. Last year we gave \$150 each to the Women's Shelter, Burden Bearers, Food bank, Bridges, and the Pregnancy care center.

The Son Fest has been run by a committee of 5 individuals (also known as the 5 Smooth Stones) who give their time and talents to make this event a success each year. This year the committee has expanded to 6 people, with the newest addition being a "volunteer coordinator". The plan is to continue this event and have Hinton become the home of the Sonfest for many years to come. No committee members are paid.

The Son Fest is funded by local businesses and individuals. With the change in the economy, we fear our sponsors may not be able to keep pace with the growth of the Son Fest. The committee is determined to keep this event growing and not lose any momentum just because of a downturn in the economy. With our revenues being challenged, we are looking to make changes to the cost side of the equation to make our growth sustainable.

Two of our biggest expenses are the "Show Mobile" and the "Maskuta Creek Campground". We have rented both for the past 5 years.

We are requesting that the Town waive the cost of both of these items this year to enable us to spend the money on performers and activities that will grow the Son Fest.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

John Smith

Son Fest Committee Member

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