



## Memorandum

To: Council

From: Eilidh Canning, Municipal Clerk

Re: Hope Dial A Ride – Funding for Municipality of Argyle Residents

Handicapped Organization Promoting Equality (HOPE), is a registered charity founded in 1980 as a cross-disability consumer group. HOPE opened a drop-in information centre in the rear of the Kinsmen Hall on Hawthorne Street. Their goal is to address some of the needs and concerns of disabled and income challenged residents in Yarmouth town and county.

One area of concern for HOPE was seeing the lack of available, affordable transportation, particularly for those who were confined to wheelchairs. In the late 1990s HOPE created Dial-A-Ride with a single used passenger van. Today they have 7 modern passenger vans, plus a 5 passenger mid-sized SUV.

Residents of the Municipality of Argyle use the transportation services provided by HOPE, and this use was highlighted during Accessibility Committee meetings. The Accessibility Committee then contacted HOPE to investigate how many of our Municipality's residents in wheelchairs use this service, as the cost is \$7 each way for those in a wheelchair. HOPE advised that two of their regular Argyle clients are in wheelchairs and require wheelchair accessible vans. These clients are each making 3 round trip visits per week to Yarmouth Regional for dialysis procedures. Based upon this information, The Accessibility Committee is requesting funding from Council to cover these MODA residents who are in wheelchairs and are using HOPE's services to get back and forth to the Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

The annual cost of this is \$4,368. The Accessibility Committee is therefore requesting Council to cover this cost, which is not currently in the budget. This will be managed internally via a running total that is invoiced by HOPE to MODA as the service is used by our residents and will be specific to local service only for those in Wheelchairs. This request is one of the recommended courses of action as part of the accessibility report.