

**Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group Inc.**  
**2019 Request to The Municipality of Harrison Park**  
**For Summer Student Help**

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Initiative

Reducing the risk of AIS (Zebra Mussels) being introduced to Sandy Lake is an extremely important initiative. The economy of Sandy Lake depends on the lake. If there was an indication from a test that zebra mussels had been introduced into the lake, the province would be forced to close the lake as has happened at Singush Lake in the Duck Mountains. This would be catastrophic!

In 2018 and early 2019, we:

1. Conducted a successful Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness campaign;
2. Constructed an off-grid Watercraft Inspection Office located at the Main Street boat launch at Sandy Lake;
3. Installed lockable gates at three public locations where a trailered watercraft could be launched and put up signs directing them to the Main Street boat launch in order to be inspected before they are launched;
4. Inspected watercraft at the Main Street boat launch (4 high risk watercraft were sent to RMNP to be decontaminated.)
5. Submitted applications to the provincial and federal summer employment programs:
  - o Manitoba Green Team
  - o Canada Summer Employment

The summer jobs are for conducting watercraft inspections at Sandy Lake's Main Street boat launch. These positions will be working from the Watercraft Inspection Office located there. If our applications are successful, these programs will fund wages and employment costs up to the Manitoba minimum wage (\$11.35/hour). In order to attract workers, we will be paying \$13.50/hour.

If our applications are successful, we will use the money to offset the difference between the Manitoba minimum wage and the amount we need to pay in order to attract these students.

If our applications are not successful, the money will be enough to pay for one position and the Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group will make that work.

## Funding Request for AIS Initiative

In order to assist with the operating costs of the Watercraft Inspection Station, we are requesting the Municipality of Harrison Park contribute \$9,000 to the Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group for the 2019 open water season.

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Watercraft Inspection Office (WIO)



Lockable gate at the end of the Lagoon Road



Lockable gate at West Bend Dock



Lockable gate at West Bend Dock