

Community Arts Council

of

Fort St. John, B.C.

Box 6475,
Fort St. John, B.C.
V1J 4K5

Mrs. E.A. Lane,
B.C. Interim Art Board,
c/o B.C. Cultural Program
466 Superior Street,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mrs. Lane,

The North Peace Potters' Guild has recently made me, and my board of directors on the Community Arts Council, aware of the situation regarding their application for a grant of money from the B.C. Cultural Fund.

For several years now the guild has been a member of the Arts Council and has, from time to time, received such small amounts of money as we have been able to allocate from the Provincial Grant. Over a period of 7 years it has received in the region of \$1200 to assist it in the purchase of minimum equipment and with 2 workshops. Members of the guild have over the years developed a very "professionally" run organization serving both the recreational potters in their group and those whose work has reached professional standards.

We, too, are aware of the difficulties surrounding the definition of the term "professional" but feel that this guild may deserve the term at least as well (it is a teaching organization, a sales organization, a supply outlet and runs a whole time studio for the use of its members) as for instance "The North West Coast Institute of the Arts", which I understand operates a similar, if more diversified organization, or even the "Shawigan Summer School of the Arts" which provides instruction by top artists for students.

We believe that the fact that the North Peace Potters' Guild organization is run by volunteers should in no way influence their professional standing. In fact, so long as standards of organization and instruction can be maintained at a high level we can see no good reason for employing a director and thereby running a deficit!

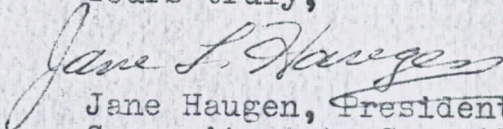
You are aware from the grant application material presented by the Potters' Guild that the money was basically requested as a subsidy to defray the costs of transportation of instructors and materials to the North. For this reason we are at a loss to understand why granting the request should have any implication for other craft organizations outside the North.

That some money is available to the Provincial organizations (in which the Potters' Guild has membership) is, in fact, rather beside the point as the amount of help those organizations are able to give in the North is minimal.

As an interested person, but not an expert, I cannot attest to the quality of the work or organization of the Guild, but I understand that Albert Dehod and Brian Palmer who allowed their names to be used for reference have not been contacted. Certainly the community has great praise for the work produced by the Guild and the service it is doing in the field. The members, however are unable to improve their work more than very slowly, as resource personnel and the work of potters of high standing is just not available. Interested potters living nearer the major centres have a wealth of material on which to draw.

We would be pleased if you could once again, review the situation in these terms - not as a special request for recreational funding but on its own merit.

Yours truly,



Jane Haugen, President
Community Arts Council
of Fort St. John

c.c. Members of the B.C. Interim Art Board
Mr Tom Fielding
North Peace Potters Guild

JLH/mh



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ADDRESS REPLIES TO:
THE B.C. ARTS BOARD

PLEASE QUOTE

FILE.....

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
VICTORIA, B.C.

23 August 1976

Ms. Jane Haugen, President,
Community Arts Council of Fort St. John,
Box 647 ,
Fort St. John, British Columbia.
V1J 4K5

Dear Ms. Haugen:

Re: North Peace Potters' Guild

Your recent letter regarding the application of the North Peace Potters' Guild for a grant from the B. C. Cultural Fund was considered by the B. C. Interim Arts Board at its last meeting.

As I explained in my last letter to Heather Hannaford on this matter, the Board is willing to consider special requests through the Community Arts Council for additional funding for organizations whose requirements are beyond that which the Arts Council can provide from its normal funding. The Board assumes that your recent letter might be understood to be this kind of request. However, at the present time, the Cultural Fund for 1975-76 has been expended, and any such request should now be made for next year, along with your Community Arts Council normal application.

The Board would consider special requests for resource personnel to come into the area for workshops, etc., and would certainly be pleased to consider a specific request of this kind.

We are not, in any way, negating the quality and achievements of the North Peace Potters' Guild, but cannot accept that it is yet set up as an educational and teaching institution such as the Northwest Coast Institute of the Arts or the Shawnigan Summer School of the Arts, which you mentioned. The Grants Committee and the Board will, however, be giving special attention this fall to developing firmer guidelines for organizations whose activities are growing beyond arts council funding capabilities, and seeking more professional standards.

...../2


Ms. Jane Haugen

- 2 -

23 August 1976

The Board realizes the special difficulties of costs incurred for getting resources into northern British Columbia and will make every effort to assist development in your area.

Yours sincerely,


Elizabeth A. Lane,
Chairman.

c.c. T. G. Fielding

EAL:dd