DAWSON CO-OP
YOUR CO-OP, YOUR CAUSE APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Your Co-op, Your Cause (YCYC) is Dawson Co-op's monthly, member-directed community giving initiative. Through YCYC:

- Community organizations are featured monthly in-store
- Members help determine funding through a voting process
- Funding is distributed based on member participation

Our intent is that, wherever possible, community sponsorship and donation requests will be supported through YCYC. This approach allows Dawson Co-op to:

- Support a **greater number of organizations** over the course of the year
- Provide **predictable, budgeted funding**
- Reduce the administrative burden of responding to a high volume of individual requests
- Increase **member engagement and awareness** of local causes

WHO CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR YCYC Organizations must meet **all existing Dawson Co-op philanthropy eligibility criteria**, including:

- Be a registered charity, non-profit, or school group
- Operate within Dawson Co-op's service area
- Align with Dawson Co-op's values of integrity, community, accountability, respect, and excellence
- Organizations must have **at least one Dawson Co-op Member** serving on their **staff or Board of Directors**

This ensures a meaningful connection between the Co-op, its members, and the organizations being supported.

WHAT YCYC SUPPORTS YCYC funding is intended to support:

- Community programs and initiatives
- Local events and activities
- Projects with clear community benefit and accessibility

Funding is **not intended** to support:

- Ongoing operating costs such as salaries
- Political or religious campaigns (community-focused programs may be considered)

Marquee & Legacy Events

While YCYC is the primary avenue for community support, Dawson Co-op recognizes the importance of long-standing, high-impact community events.

Funding for **marquee and legacy initiatives** will continue to be reviewed and supported **outside of YCYC**, through established budgeting and approval processes.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Rotary Auction
- Dawson Co-op Pancake Breakfast
- Lobsterfest

These events play a unique role in large-scale community fundraising and engagement and remain a valued part of Dawson Co-op's community investment strategy.

APPLICATIONS & INTAKE – YOUR CO-OP, YOUR CAUSE (YCYC)

HOW TO APPLY Organizations interested in being considered for Your Co-op, Your Cause (YCYC) may submit an application at any time throughout the year via Dawson Co-op's Do Some Good online application platform

- Applications are accepted on an ongoing, year-round basis
- Approved organizations will be scheduled into future YCYC months, subject to availability and program balance
- Submission of an application does not guarantee immediate placement but ensures the organization is included in the YCYC consideration pool

How Requests Are Managed Going Forward

- All community sponsorship and donation requests will be encouraged to apply through **Your Co-op, Your Cause** using the ***Do Some Good*** **platform**
- This centralized intake allows Dawson Co-op to:
    - Track requests consistently

- Plan monthly lineups in advance
- Ensure fair and equitable access to community funding

Application & Review Process

- YCYC participation will be coordinated by Dawson Co-op's Communications & Marketing team
- Organizations may be asked to provide:
  - Confirmation of eligibility
  - Proof of Co-op membership connection
  - Basic promotional collaboration during their feature month
- Funding recipients will be announced following month-end vote verification