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REPORT TO THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 08, 2026

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board a bimonthly update on external grants activity for the period between April 22, 2026 and June 23, 2026.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in May 2026. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of June 23, 2026. Appendix B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2026 referencing CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$100,000 through the Ministry of Transportation and Transit's Transit Minor Betterments Grant program for a bus shelter in Ganges on Salt Spring Island
2. \$40,000 through the Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) 2025 Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning Grant program for review and updating the Evacuation Planning Guides in each Electoral Area
3. \$10,226 through Employment and Social Development Canada's Summer Jobs program to support the hiring of camp leaders on Salt Spring Island
4. \$10,000 through the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grants program for a Integrated Housing Strategy Action Plan for Salt Spring Island

There is one grant under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

1. \$574,000 through the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness's Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding program for safety improvements to the Money Lake Dam on Saturna Island
2. \$455,000 through ICBC's Cost-Share program for a sidewalk pathway and crosswalk construction in Ganges Village along Jackson Road
3. \$250,000 through ICBC's Cost-Share program for a sidewalk pathway and crosswalk construction in Ganges Village along Rainbow Road
4. \$225,000 through ICBC's Cost-Share program for safety improvements such as traffic calming measures, improved sightlines and crosswalks in Ganges Village

- \$3,151 through the TLC Fund for Kids' program for the construction of an outdoor bouldering wall on Pender Island

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Nineteen grant calls (including programs with multiple streams) were issued during the reporting period and are summarized in Table 1. Appendix B details relevant active grants (as of April 21, 2026) and lists recently closed grants for 2026. Appendix B also references CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.

Build Communities Strong Fund

During the reporting period, the Government of Canada also announced the launch of several open intakes under the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF), which was part of the 2025 Budget. BCSF is a \$51 billion 10-year program (starting 2026-2027) with \$3 billion per year ongoing to support public infrastructure projects. The program includes three funding streams: Provincial and Territorial, Direct Delivery and the Community Stream (Community Works Fund in British Columbia). The Direct Delivery stream, which includes the Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan's) Local Impact Stream, are currently accepting applications (referenced in Table 1). Staff continues to work with services to determine appropriate applications to submit and continuously monitors this program for other open intakes.

Table 1: Grant Calls Issued

Grant	Deadline	Information
Affordable Housing Innovation Fund – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	01-May-26	This program supports innovative housing providers driving innovation across the housing continuum
Grants for district projects – Entente Education Canada	29-May-26	This program supports projects that promote a healthy, active future for older adults in Canada
CoNext: Climate Preparedness Hub – Fraser Basin Council	31-May-26	This program supports a four-month training program designed to build climate resilience in small, rural and remote communities in British Columbia
New Horizons for Seniors Program – Community-based projects – Employment and Social Development Canada	14-Jul-26	This program supports projects that empower seniors in their communities through increased social inclusion
Direct Delivery Stream – BCSF – Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	15-Jul-26	This program supports a wide range of infrastructure projects that support economic prosperity, housing, sport, education, health, transit and climate adaptation

Grant	Deadline	Information
Capacity Development Partner Grants – Green Municipal Fund – Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)	21-Jul-26	This program supports designing and delivering climate adaptation training for local governments
Pacific Salmon Commission Endowment Fund – Pacific Salmon Commission	19-Aug-26	This fund supports projects that improve the management, restoration and long-term sustainability of Pacific salmon populations and their habitats
Local Impact Stream – BCSF – Pacific Economic Development Canada	14-Sep-26	This program supports community infrastructure projects with public benefits that will strengthen communities and advance regional economic development
Mental Health and Climate Change Community Action Grants – Mental Health and Climate Change Alliance	01-Oct-26	This program supports culturally safe, trauma-informed initiatives working at the intersection of mental health and climate change
Community to Community Program – UBCM	09-Oct-26	This program supports C2C forums and events - in addition, the program supports the advancement of First Nation/local government reconciliation and relationship building
Local Festivals – Canadian Heritage	15-Oct-26	This program supports local groups for recurring festivals that present the work of local artists, local artisans, local heritage performers or specialists and local First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultural carriers
Community Economic Development and Diversification in British Columbia – Pacific Economic Development Canada	Continuous	This program supports projects that strengthen local economies across British Columbia. Funding is aimed at initiatives that drive long-term economic growth, attract investment and talent, increase productivity, expand or transition sectors and help communities adapt to changing economic conditions
Residential Resilience Financing – Green Municipal Fund – FCM	Continuous	This program supports municipalities design to or expand financing program that enable homeowners to invest in climate adaptation and resilience upgrades
Community Engagement Funding – Veterans Affairs Canada	Continuous	This program supports organizations delivering community-based remembrance initiatives
Sustainable Municipal Buildings – Green Municipal Fund – FCM	Continuous	This program supports continuous, year-round funding for municipalities and Indigenous communities to plan, retrofit, or construct energy-efficient municipal buildings

Grant	Deadline	Information
WildFireSat Remote Sensing Capacity for Use in Fire Management program – Natural Resources Canada	Continuous	This program supports Canadian wildland fire and emergency management organizations build the skills, tools and technical capacity needed to use WildFireSat Earth observation data products
FCC Community Funding – Farm Credit Canada	Continuous	This program supports capital projects and initiatives focused on food security, community well-being, education and food literacy and community enhancement
TLC Fund for Kids – The TLC Fund for Kids	Continuous	This program supports projects to enhance health, well-being and quality of life for children up to the age of 18, living on Southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands - the fund provides grants to support children, their families and essential services and programs for youth
Cost-Share – ICBC	Continuous	This program supports a wide range of road safety improvement projects

CONCLUSION

The CRD recognizes grants as a supplementary funding source to address the needs of services provided to the region. The External Grants Update outlines how the CRD continues to integrate and consider grant opportunities relative to service needs. Local partners are informed of these opportunities through the Grants Dashboard and Grants Alerts. The CRD will continue to provide a bimonthly summary of activities and outcomes in the External Grants Update.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: 2026 External Grants Dashboard
- Appendix B: 2026 Grant Alerts