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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

SUBJECT **Union of British Columbia Municipalities Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant 2025 - Motion of Support**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Protective Services Division applied for a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) Equipment and Training grant, funded by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a motion of support from the local government.

BACKGROUND

The CRD Protective Services Division regularly applies for UBCM CEPF grants as they become available. These grants allow Protective Services to undertake additional emergency preparation and training activities beyond what would be possible within the approved budget.

As outlined in the application form for the 2025 intake, the CRD is seeking to increase its emergency operations capacity through the development of core EOC training for CRD staff, our First Nations partners, and the local authorities of southern Vancouver Island. Cross-training and exercising with our partner emergency managers not only enhances the resilience of emergency management in the region, it also offers the opportunity to deploy EOC trained personnel resources to other centres that may be experiencing extended EOC activations. The grant request totals \$40,000.

Additionally, the CRD Protective Services Division intends to offer enhanced training and exercising, including operational rhythm/process flows, action plan development, role-specific training, and orientation to CRD's enterprise QIT software, to a core team of CRD staff from across all divisions and electoral areas of the organization. This team would make up the CRD's rapid EOC activation team to respond immediately to the full suite of hazards and risks facing the region.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be instructed to apply for, negotiate, and if successful, enter into an agreement, and do all such things necessary for accepting grant funds and overseeing grant management for the proposed project.

Alternative 2

That staff be directed to rescind the grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant for 2025.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

Increasing the capacity of the CRD Corporate EOC with the development of a strong cohort of EOC trained staff will include the development and enhancement of mutual aid resources and supports to adjacent First Nations, municipalities, and external partners. The portability of emergency radio communications equipment will ensure it can be deployed throughout the region in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Financial Implications

The CEPF grant request is for \$40,000 and would allow the CRD to pursue enhancements to the EOC beyond what would be possible within the current budget.

Service Delivery Implications

Additional capacity funded through this grant would enhance service support capability to the CRD during an emergency or disaster.

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

Emergency planning and training activity funded by this grant would enhance the CRD ability to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from an environmental or climate related disaster.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

Capacity generated by this grant is aligned with existing emergency preparedness and strategies.

CONCLUSION

The CRD is required to maintain an effective emergency management program compliant with provincial legislation. The service enhancements that will be gained through the UBCM CEPF EOCs Equipment and Training grant will help ensure that the CRD will continue to meet those regulatory expectations while improving response capability for our citizens and partners.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That staff be instructed to apply for, negotiate, and if successful, enter into an agreement, and do all such things necessary for accepting grant funds and overseeing grant management for the proposed project.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, CD, BHSc, MAL, Senior Manager, Protective Services
Concurrence:	Patrick Klassen, MCIP, RPP, Acting General Manager, Housing, Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer, GM Finance & IT
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: CEPF Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant 2025 Application Form