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REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 01, 2024

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the Finance Committee and the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board a bimonthly update on external grants activity for the period between February 20, 2024 and April 15, 2024.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in March 2024. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of 2024. Appendix B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2024 referencing CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$500,000 through the Province of British Columbia's (BC's) Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants to fund the Schooner Way-School Trail on Pender Island, this has an estimated total project cost of \$1,430,000
2. \$500,000 through the Province of BC's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants to fund the first phase of the Regional Trestles Renewal, Trails Widening and Lighting Project, this has an estimated total project cost of \$1,782,000
3. \$495,000 through the Province of BC's Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program to fund the capital costs of infrastructure development for Southern Gulf Islands internet connectivity project, the project will bring an internet transport landing site and last mile connectivity to residents of Galiano and Saturna Islands
4. \$112,000 through Province of BC's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants to fund the Merchant Mews Pathway Project on Salt Spring Island, this has an estimated total project cost of \$160,000
5. \$30,000 through the Province of BC's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants to support an active transportation network plan for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, this has an estimated total project cost of \$60,000
6. \$30,000 through the Union of BC Municipalities' Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to purchase radio systems for emergency center operations
7. \$16,000 through BC Hydro's Sustainable Communities Program to create a registry of corporately owned covered buildings
8. \$4,600 through BC Hydro's Community ReGreening Program to support the beautification of the Dinner Bay Park Fitness Circuit on Mayne Island - estimated total project cost \$7,000

There are three grants under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Five CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$500,000 through the Paul G. Allen Foundation’s Natural Climate Solutions to fund a tree planting campaign across the CRD
2. \$180,000 through the Union of BC Municipalities’ Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to perform a consolidated climate risk assessment and vulnerability study for the CRD and vulnerability signage in the Electoral Areas
3. \$25,000 through Employment and Social Development Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program to fund equipment, upgrades and programming at the Dinner Bay Park on Mayne Island
4. \$10,000 through Salt Spring Island Foundation’s Community Grants Fund to support a new well and water storage at Portlock Park to minimize field closures due to a lack of irrigation. - estimated total project cost \$7,000
5. \$5,000 through Salt Spring Island Foundation’s Community Grants Fund to purchase dance studio mirrors and barre for Salt Spring Island Multi-Space

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Ten 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 15, 2024) and lists recently closed grants for 2024. Appendix B also references CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.

Table 1: Grant Calls Issued

Grant	Deadline	Information
Community Wellness Grant Program – Island Health	12-Apr-24	For community led wellness projects that reduce barriers and increase supports
Energy Innovation Program – Natural Resources Canada	17-Apr-24	Funding for methane measurement, reporting, verification and emissions mitigation
Foam Recycling Coalition Grant Program – Foodservice Packaging Institute	22-Apr-24	Improve the collection and recycling of polystyrene foam
Heritage Legacy Fund – HeritageBC	26-Apr-24	Supports community initiatives that conserve and increase appreciation of heritage resources
Biodiversity Conservation Grant – Fraser Basin Council	30-Apr-24	Opportunities for conservation tools and incentives on private lands

Grant	Deadline	Information
Outdoor Recreation Fund – Outdoor Recreation Council of BC	30-Apr-24	Funding for trail enhancement, stewardship and education, and inclusive participation measures
Build and Mobilize Foundational Wildland Fire Knowledge Program – Natural Resources Canada	14-May-24	Funding for wildfire risk assessment, risk mitigation, and adaptation forestry practices
Go Election Public Charger Program – CleanBC	17-May-24	To increase the numbers of public DC fast charger stations
Infrastructure Planning Grant Program – Ministry of Municipal Affairs	12-Jun-24	Funding for infrastructure and asset planning
2024 Living Cities Fund – Green Communities Canada	Continuous (Limited Funds)	For small-scale green infrastructure 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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Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: 2024 External Grants Dashboard
- Appendix B: 2024 Grant Alerts