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REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board a bi-monthly update on external grants activity for the period between June 20, 2023 and August 21, 2023.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in July. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of 2023. Appendix B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2023.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$65,000 through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' Regional District Basic Grant program to assist with administration costs for electoral areas.
2. \$60,000 through BC Hydro's Sustainable Communities & Industry Partnerships Project Implementation Offer to support the Neighbourhood Energy Navigator Project.
3. \$45,000 through UBCM's Support Local Preparedness for Implementation of NG911 to provide base funding for Next Generation 911.
4. \$12,000 through University of Victoria's Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Internship Program to support the Regional Climate Projections – Understanding Current Use, Gaps, and Opportunities Project.
5. \$10,000 through BC Healthy Communities Society's PlanH program to support the Decolonizing Health Policy, Planning and Programming in the Capital Region Project.
6. \$7,500 through Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grant Program to support New Audio System for Salt Spring Island Multi Space Gymnasium.
7. \$6,000 through Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grant Program to support Uniforms and Safety Gear for Martial Arts and Wrestling Programs.

There are two grants under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Two CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$63,150,000 through Infrastructure Canada’s Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to support the Capital Regional District – Regional Water System Upgrades – Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Improvement Project. This has an estimated total project cost of \$150,000,000.
2. \$1,581,250 through Natural Resources Canada’s Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program – For Delivery Organizations to support the Capital Region EV Charger Assistance Program. This has an estimated total project cost of \$3,100,000.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Twenty-three grant calls (includes programs with multiple streams) were issued during the reporting period and are summarized in the table below. Appendix B details relevant active grants (as of August 21, 2023) and lists recently closed grants for 2023.

Grant	Deadline	Information
Veteran Homelessness Program – Infrastructure Canada	06-Jul-23	Funding to prevent and reduce veteran homelessness in Canada
Retrofit Funding for Multi-unit Residential Buildings – Canada Greener Affordable Housing – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	31-Jul-23	Access to low-interest repayable and forgivable loans for deep energy retrofits of multi-unit residential buildings
Housing Accelerator Fund – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	18-Aug-23	Incentive funding to local governments to encourage initiatives aimed at increasing housing supply
Community Climate Transitions Innovation Fund – Tamarack Institute	24-Aug-23	Provides funding for community-led climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.
Community Based Projects – New Horizons for Seniors Program	14-Sep-23	Funds projects that empower seniors in their communities and contribute to improving their health and well-being
Climate Change Adaptation Program – Natural Resources Canada	22-Sep-23	Funding to increase access to climate change adaptation tools and resources

Grant	Deadline	Information
Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation – UBCM	06-Oct-23	Funding to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks through three streams: 1. Foundational Activities including risk mapping, risk assessments and planning 2. Non-structural projects including land use planning and education and temporary mitigation equipment 3. Small-Scale Structural Projects
Youth Innovation Component – Enabling Accessibility Fund – Employment and Social Development Canada	10-Oct-23	Funding for Youth Accessibility Leaders to find accessibility barriers in their communities
Innovator Skills Initiative – Innovate BC	20-Oct-23	Funding to employers to hire for tech or tech-related roles
Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – UBCM	20-Oct-23	Funding to fire departments for preparation and response to emergencies
BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program – Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	27-Oct-23	Funding to support network planning grants and infrastructure grants to support the development of active transportation infrastructure for all ages and abilities
Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program – Ministry of Employment, Business and Economic Development	30-Oct-23	Funding for rural economic development projects that promote economic capacity building, economic diversification, resilience, clean economy and infrastructure development through three streams: 1. Economic Capacity 2. Economic Diversification 3. Forest Impact Transition
Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training – UBCM	03-Nov-23	To enhance cultural safety and humility in the delivery of local emergency management programs and services
Complete Communities Program – UBCM	12-Jan-24	Funding to undertake assessments to inform land use decision-making; considering housing need, supply and location; providing transportation options; and connecting to infrastructure investment and servicing decisions

Grant	Deadline	Information
Community Safety Support Fund – Fierste Canada Pride (FCP)	31-Mar-24	Provides funding to both FCP members and non-members for Pride Festivals and Events between June 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024
Rental Protection Fund – Ministry of Housing	No established deadline	Provides funding for affordable housing projects
Environmental Jobs Growth Program – Environmental Careers Organization of Canada	Continuous	Funding for training and employment to support job seekers looking to enter or advance their careers in the clean economy
Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program – Canadian Heritage	Continuous	Funding to community-based events that promote intercultural or interfaith understanding, promote discussions on multiculturalism, diversity, racism and religious discrimination, or celebrate a community's history and culture such as heritage months recognized by Parliament
Next Generation 911 – UBCM	Continuous through 2025	Funding to eligible recipients to support the transition and operational readiness of existing 911 services to NG911

CONCLUSION

The CRD recognizes grants are 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 these grant opportunities relative to service needs, as well as informing local partners of these opportunities through the Grants Dashboard and Grants Alerts. The CRD will continue to provide a summary of activities and outcomes in the External Grants Update on a bimonthly basis.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: 2023 External Grants Dashboard
- Appendix B: 2023 Grant Alerts