

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 07, 2025**

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 February 18, 2025 and April 21, 2025.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in March. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of April 21, 2025. Appendix B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2025 referencing CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$500,000 through B.C.'s Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program for the Schooner Way Trail Project (Phase 2), an initiative to build a multi-use trail from Danny Martin Ballpark to the Pender School. This second phase project has a total project budget of \$1,430,000. This project received \$500,000 under the same program in 2024 for the first phase of project construction.
2. \$75,000 through BC Hydro's Energy and Carbon Emissions Reporting Program for implementing energy and carbon emissions reporting in the Capital Region. The project will engage a third-party administrator for the program, develop a reporting process and disclosure platform. This project has a total project budget of \$308,000. Saanich and Victoria are contributing \$10,000 and \$15,000 respectively.
3. \$8,500 through BC Hydro's Integrated Energy Audit initiative to produce basic design and costing for upcoming replacement of propane boilers serving the Salt Spring Multi Space and to identify energy conservation measures to reduce the site's energy/greenhouse gas use and operational costs.
4. \$4,000 through BC Hydro's Community ReGreening Program for tree planting at Dinner Bay Park on Mayne Island. This project has a total project budget of \$7,000.
5. \$4,000 through the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for improvements to park signage and the creation of an interpretive nature trail in Henderson Park on Mayne Island. This project has a total project budget of \$10,000.

There are three grants under the new embargo.

Applications Submitted

Five CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$29,939,595 through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's Active Transportation Fund to upgrade the Galloping Goose and Lochside Regional trails, the Selkirk, Swan Lake and Brett Ave trestles, and add additional lighting for improved visibility. The total project cost is \$55,477,592.
2. \$23,903,488 through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund to improve drinking water service to the Northern communities on the Saanich Peninsula by improving redundancy and capacity for the transmission mains on the Saanich Peninsula. This project has a total project budget of \$62,072,331.
3. \$40,000 through Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning Grant program for review and updating the Evacuation Planning Guides in each Electoral Area.
4. \$10,000 through Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grants program to identify opportunities for affordable housing development on Salt Spring Island and create an action plan. This project has a total project budget of \$60,000
5. \$9,625 through Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grants program to purchase an inflatable obstacle course for the Salt Spring Island Multi Space.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Six 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, 2025) and lists recently closed grants for 2025. Appendix B also references CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.

Table 1: Grant Calls Issued

Grant	Deadline	Information
Community Grants – Salt Spring Island Foundation	13-Mar-25	Funding to local community initiatives.
Next Generation 911 – UBCM	11-Apr-25	Funding to develop Evacuation Route Plans and/or Public Notification Plans.
Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning – UBCM	25-Apr-25	Funding to assist local governments in delivering sustainable services by extending and deepening asset management practices within their organizations.

Grant	Deadline	Information
Asset Management Planning – UBCM	23-May-25	Funding to assist local governments in delivering sustainable services by extending and deepening asset management practices within their organizations.
FireSmart Pilot Program – UBCM	30-May-25	Support to increase community resiliency and to help build a cooperative pathway for wildfire response via training and purchasing Personal Protective Equipment.
2 Billion Trees Program – CleanBC	18-Sep-25	Funding for tree planting 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: 2025 External Grants Dashboard
Appendix B: 2025 Grant Alerts