

**REPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2025**

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**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 August 20, 2025 and October 21, 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in September 2025. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of October 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. \$175,000 through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Affordable Housing Study Grant to create 119 units of affordable housing in the District of Saanich, Greater Victoria, British Columbia (BC). This project has a total cost of \$523,128.
2. \$175,000 through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Affordable Housing Study Grant to make the 140 units of affordable and sustainable rental housing in Victoria, BC more energy efficient. This project has a total cost of \$425,000.
3. \$40,000 through the District of Saanich's Affordable Housing Reserve Fund to support the creation of 120 affordable housing units at the Swanlea housing project.
4. \$40,000 through the District of Saanich's Affordable Housing Reserve Fund to support the creation of 190 non-market housing units at 1800 McKenzie Road.
5. \$27,283 through Employment and Social Development Canada's Compensation for Employers of Reservists Program to compensate for costs associated with the deployment of CRD employees who serve in the Canadian Armed Forces.

There are three grants under news embargo.

**Applications Submitted**

1. \$7,000,000 through Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Strategic priority fund to increase the hydraulic grade line of Regional Water Supply Main No. 1 and build/upgrade a series of pressure control stations along the water main to facilitate distribution from the increased main pressure. The project has a total cost of \$15,800,000.

2. \$7,000,000 through UBCM's Strategic Priorities Fund to install advanced biosolids processing infrastructure at its Residuals Treatment Facility to convert biosolids into biochar, ensuring long-term beneficial use in alignment with the CRD's legislated responsibilities and community-supported strategy. The project has a total cost of \$10,000,000.
3. \$1,750,000 through UBCM's Strategic Priorities Fund to renew the full building envelope of the Rainbow Recreation Centre on Salt Spring Island. The project has a total cost of \$1,800,000.
4. \$800,000 through the Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation program for a shoreline restoration project based on Green Shores principles at Coles Bay. This project has a total cost of \$1,000,000.
5. \$150,000 through UBCM's Strategic Priority fund to develop a long-term plan for recreation growth that is financially responsible. The SEAPARC strategic plan identified the need for a second arena, a large-span gymnasium and multi-use/classroom spaces to support the community need. Considerations for this plan will be existing infrastructure life expectancy, siting options, climate goals and community partnerships. The project has a total cost of \$180,000.
6. \$65,000 through the Ministry of Transportation and Transit's Transit Minor Betterments Grant program for a bus shelter at Salt Spring Islands visitor center. This project has a total cost of \$70,000.
7. \$25,000 through Employment and Social Development Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program for the completion of a full half mile walking/running circuit in Dinner Bay Park on Mayne Island. This project has a total cost of \$50,000.

### *Service Delivery Implications*

### **New Grant Opportunities**

Sixteen 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 October 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                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program: Assessments, Engineering Studies or Plans – Investment Agriculture Foundation | 2-Sep-25  | Funding to increase adoption of efficient irrigation infrastructure and improve agricultural water supply and management. |
| Capital project: Construction of new sustainable municipal and community buildings – Green Municipal Fund               | 15-Sep-25 | Funding for municipalities to design and construct new, high-efficiency, low-carbon community or municipal buildings.     |

| Grant                                                                                                         | Deadline  | Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Active Transportation Planning – UBCM                                                                         | 30-Sep-25 | Funding to support local governments to incorporate or enhance active transportation components of formal planning documents (Official Community Plan, Sustainability Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, or Transportation Plan), including research, engagement and policy development. |
| Local Food Infrastructure Fund – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada                                             | 24-Oct-25 | This funding supports projects that strengthen local food security by increasing access to nutritious, culturally appropriate food. Funding focuses on purchasing and installing infrastructure or equipment for food production.                                               |
| Community Resiliency Investment Program: FireSmart Community Funding and Supports – UBCM                      | 30-Oct-25 | Funding to reduce community wildfire risk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program – Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth              | 31-Oct-25 | This grant funding program supports rural communities throughout BC to develop economic opportunities.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training – UBCM | 31-Oct-25 | This program provides funding to enhance the capacity and emergency response readiness of volunteer and composite fire departments in BC.                                                                                                                                       |
| Treemendous Communities – Tree Canada                                                                         | 1-Dec-25  | Funding for tree planting projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Edible Trees – Tree Canada                                                                                    | 1-Dec-25  | Funding for fruit and nut bearing trees to promote local food security, environmental health and community connections.                                                                                                                                                         |

| Grant                                                             | Deadline   | Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - UBCM                      | Various    | <p>The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies and to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training</li> <li>• Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training</li> <li>• Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training</li> <li>• Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training</li> <li>• Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning</li> </ul> |
| Feasibility study: Green Buildings Pathway – Green Municipal Fund | Continuous | <p>This program provides funding for studies that explore energy-saving retrofits in municipal and community buildings to cut costs, reduce emissions and improve performance.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Business case: Community Energy Systems – Green Municipal Fund    | Continuous | <p>This funding supports viability assessments of community energy projects and their business models.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## **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