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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

SUBJECT **Union of British Columbia Municipalities - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training Grant - 2026**

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 Protective Services Division regularly applies for UBCM CEPF grants as they become available. These grants allow Protective Services to acquire equipment, enhance emergency preparation and training activities, and support volunteer retention and recruitment beyond what would be possible within the approved budget.

As outlined in the application form for the 2026 intake, the CRD will continue to develop its emergency operations capacity by delivering training and exercise activities for CRD staff, our First Nations partners, and in collaboration with the local authorities of southern Vancouver Island.

Additionally, the Protective Services team has identified the need to align communications tools with the recent upgrade to digital radio services that have been widely implemented within other operationally-focused branches. The grant program enables the purchase of equipment that supports EOC operations.

The grand request totals \$30,000, with funding anticipated to be allocated for training and equipment needs, with a small portion allocated for volunteer retention and recruitment initiatives. This is a \$10,000 reduction from prior year grant program limits.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training Grant 2026 be supported and that staff be directed to provide overall grant management.

Alternative 2

That staff be directed to withdraw the grant application.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

This grant supports increasing the capacity of the CRD corporate EOC with the development of a strong cohort of trained staff capable of effective response to sustained incidents and recovery operations. Training will be coordinated to enhance capacities for mutual aid and supports to adjacent First Nations, municipalities and external partners.

Financial Implications

The CEPF grant request is for \$30,000 and would allow the CRD to pursue enhancements to the EOC and support staff training 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. Training and exercise programs also support multiple departments that have operations with public safety elements.

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

Emergency planning and training activity funded by this grant would enhance the CRD’s 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 for the Emergency Operations Centre 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 an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training Grant 2026 be supported and that staff be directed to provide overall grant management.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, CD, BHSc, MAL, Senior Manager, Protective Services
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Housing, Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence:	Varinia Somosan, CPA, CGA, Acting Chief Financial Officer and GM Finance & Technology
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant - 2026 Application Worksheet