

**REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 03, 2021**

SUBJECT Capital Regional District External Grants Update

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on external grants activity since December 14, 2020, through the submission deadline for this report of February 8, 2021.

BACKGROUND

The CRD External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) summarizes grant applications and calls in progress, awards, and the status of projects still in progress. The report summarizes activities and outcomes since the External Grants Update was presented to the Board on January 13, 2021.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants / Contributions Awarded

1. Active Transportation Planning-UBCM: Active Transportation Plan for the Southern Gulf Islands, approved for \$10,000.
2. Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program, 2020-21: Enhanced Eco-Cultural Restoration Partnership Proposal – Fallow Deer Management on Mayne Island project, approved for \$18,000.
3. One grant remains under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Twenty-four applications were submitted:

1. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Program: Regional Galloping Goose Bridge Replacements & Repair Project, for \$1M.
2. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Program: JDF Willis Point Fire Department Water Supply Expansion, for \$41,865.
3. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Program: SSI Drake Road Trail Upgrade Project, for \$90,127.
4. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Program: SGI Pender Island Alice Church Multi-Modal Trail (aka “Einar’s Hill By-Pass”), for \$235,778.

5. Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Evacuation Route Planning: Capital Regional District: Southern Gulf Islands, Salt Spring Island, and Juan de Fuca Evacuation Route Planning, for \$21,863.
6. Community Emergency Support Services – Emergency Support Services: CRD ESS Drills and Equipment Funds, for \$25,000.
7. Canada Summer Jobs: 17 applications for 37 positions were submitted across the CRD's services, with a total grant ask of \$99,508.
 - a. SEAPARC, for \$24,320.
 - b. Regional Parks, for \$3,192.
 - c. IWS, for \$4,964.
 - d. Panorama – Tennis, for \$9,728.
 - e. Panorama – Aquatics, for \$21,888.
 - f. Panorama – Summercamp, for \$3,344.
 - g. Panorama – Daycamp, for \$25,992.
 - h. Salt Spring Island – Parks & Rec, for \$6,080.
8. CleanBC Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program – Organic Processing Infrastructure: Salt Spring Island Composting Project, for \$168,462.

Core Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update

The Core Area Wastewater Treatment Plant project is partially funded by the Federal Government, the Province of BC, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund grant/loan program. During the months of December 2020 and January 2021, the CRD did not receive any grant payments for this project; final payments are subject to holdback until the project and reporting are complete. Cumulatively, the CRD has received \$339M of the estimated revised total of \$462M in grant revenues. The remaining (up to) \$123M, plus the \$20M loan is expected to be received in 2021 based on timing of eligible expenditures and achievement of target milestones.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Sixteen new grant calls were issued and two grant programs extended their deadlines during the reporting period. Grant Calls in Progress for which the CRD is eligible to apply are featured in Appendix A (see pages 7–9), and in the table below:

| Grant | Deadline | Information |
|--|--|---|
| Early Learning and Child Care Innovation | Extended to 07-Jan-21 | Provides funding to innovative projects for early learning and child care programs and services. |
| Connecting British Columbia Program | Five streams: 1. 15-Jan-21 2. 15-Mar-21 3. 15-Mar-21 4. Continuous | Five streams for high-speed internet projects: 1. Rapid Response-Universal Broadband Fund 2. Phase 3 Last-Mile and Transport Infrastructure 3. Core Universal Broadband Fund Intake 4. Economic Recovery Intake |

| Grant | Deadline | Information |
|--|---|---|
| | 5. Continuous | 5. Regional Connectivity Plan Funding |
| Offshore Deployment Program- Emissions Reduction Fund: Natural Resources Canada | 31-Jan-21 | Provides funding to help Canada move towards a low carbon future: for projects that help reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. |
| Canada Summer Jobs Program | 03-Feb-21 | Provides grant funding to organizations who employ youth (ages 15-30) for summer work. |
| Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund | 15-Feb-21 | Provides funding for BC coastal communities to clean-up marine shorelines and remove derelict vessels. |
| Environmental Damages Fund | 24-Feb-21 | Provides funding through fines to projects for restoration, environmental quality improvement, research/development, and education/awareness. |
| Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk | 02-Mar-21 | Provides funding for habitat projects for species at risk. |
| Sectoral Initiatives Program- Employment and Social Development Canada | 04-Mar-21 | Provides support for COVID-19 economic recovery projects that address sector-based workforce challenges/workforce needs. |
| Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program-UBCM | 05-Mar-21 | The program is part of the Province's Poverty Reduction Strategy to support activities that will reduce poverty at a local level in BC |
| Universal Broadband Stream- Universal Broadband Fund | Extended to 15-Mar-21 | Provides funding for broadband infrastructure projects in rural and remote areas. |
| FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund – Community Resiliency Investment Program: UBCM | 19-Mar-21 | Provides funding for job creation projects that build wildfire resiliency and aid in economic recovery from COVID-19. |
| CleanBC Go Electric Public Charger Program | March 30-21 (or until funding is allocated) | Provides funding (rebates) for public Direct Current Fast Chargers. |
| CleanBC Go Electric Fleets Program | 01-Mar-23 | Provides funding (rebates) to public and private light-duty fleets for transition to zero-emission vehicles. |
| Municipal Asset Management Program-Federation of Canadian Municipalities | Until funding is allocated | Second intake to fund asset management related activities. |

Forthcoming Funding Initiatives

1. CleanBC Industry Fund, three streams, forthcoming early 2021.
 - a) Emissions performance RFP
 - b) Innovation Accelerator RFP
 - c) Project Feasibility Studies RFP
2. Island Health Community Wellness Granting Program 2021/22 intake, forthcoming spring 2021.

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. The CRD will continue to provide a summary of activities and outcomes in the External Grants Update on a monthly basis.

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Capital Regional District External Grants Update be received for information.

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ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: External Grants Dashboard