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REPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 06, 2026

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 14, 2025 and April 21, 2026.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in March 2026. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of April 21, 2026. Appendix B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2026 referencing CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$700,000 through Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Resiliency Investment Program - 2026 FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program for the continued funding of the CRD's FireSmart activities. Funding will be used over two program years.
2. \$209,470 through UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to support seven CRD fire departments with upgraded equipment and required training courses.
3. \$25,000 through SPARC BC's Local Community Accessibility Grant program for automatic bathroom door openers at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.
4. \$7,018 through BC Hydro's Community ReGreening Program for beatification and slope restoration of the Dinner Bay Park on Mayne Island. This project has a total cost of \$8,816.
5. \$2,050 through the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities' Community Development Grants program to support youth sports programming on Mayne Island. This project has a total estimated cost of \$7,700.

Applications Submitted

1. \$100,000 through the Ministry of Transportation and Transit's Transit Minor Betterments Grant program for a bus shelter in Ganges on Salt Spring Island. This project has a total cost of \$130,000.
2. \$49,280 through the UBCM Local Government Development Approvals Program for the digitization of building inspection files. The project has a total cost of \$150,000.

3. \$14,010 through the BC Civil Forfeiture Offices Grant Program for Specialized Equipment and Training for the purchase of two full suspension electric mountain bikes to support park ranger patrols and response.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Thirteen 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, 2026) and lists recently closed grants for 2026. Appendix B also references CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.

Table 1: Grant Calls Issued

Grant	Deadline	Information
Community Grant Program – Tire Stewardship BC	31-Mar-26	Provides purchase funding for recycled tire products used in public projects.
Urban Forestry Plans and Studies – Green Municipal Fund	15-Apr-26	This program helps communities strengthen the planning, management and long-term stewardship of their urban forests. Funding supports plans and studies that build sustainable, resilient tree canopies, incorporate climate adaptation and socio-economic equity and prepare municipalities for future tree-planting initiatives.
Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning – UBCM	24-Apr-26	This fund provides provincial funding to develop or update Evacuation Route Plans and Public Notification Plans. This program supports communities in preparing for emergencies by improving evacuation route identification, public alerting processes and alignment with provincial standards.
Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding – Province of BC	01-May-26	This program provides funding to help BC First Nations and local governments reduce risks from climate-driven and natural hazards such as flooding, drought, extreme heat and landslides. The program supports structural mitigation projects.
Community Anniversaries – Building Communities through Arts and Heritage – Canadian Heritage	31-May-26	Building Communities through Arts and Heritage – Community Anniversaries component provides funding to local groups for non-recurring local events, with or without a minor capital project.
Tree Planting – Green Municipal Fund	16-Jun-26	Provides funding for tree planting costs.

Grant	Deadline	Information
Accelerating Circularity in Construction Materials – Green Municipal Fund	26-Jun-26	This program supports municipalities and eligible partners in developing feasibility studies that advance circular practices in construction, renovation and demolition (CRD) waste.
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant – TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	15-Jul-26	This grant supports community-led environmental projects across Canada with a strong focus on environmental education and green space enhancement.
Implementation projects: Adaptation in Action – Green Municipal Fund	16-Oct-26	This program provides funding for municipalities and eligible partners to carry out on-the-ground climate adaptation projects that reduce risks from climate hazards and strengthen long-term community resilience.
Climate-Ready Plans and Processes – Green Municipal Fund	08-Dec-26	This program supports Canadian municipalities and eligible partners in developing climate risk assessments, climate adaptation plans, climate-focused asset management processes and capacity-building initiatives.
Feasibility study: Adaptation in Action – Green Municipal Fund	15-Dec-26	This program provides funding to help municipalities and eligible partners assess the viability of climate adaptation projects.
Canada Cultural Spaces Fund – Canadian Heritage	Continuous	This fund supports the improvement, renovation and development of arts and heritage facilities across Canada.
Build Communities Strong Fund – Direct Delivery Stream – Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada	Continuous	The Direct Delivery stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund will provide \$6 billion over 10 years, starting in 2026-27, to support regionally significant projects, climate adaptation and community infrastructure.

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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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: 2026 External Grants Dashboard
- Appendix B: 2026 Grant Alerts