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**REPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 04, 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 December 10, 2025 and February 13, 2026.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in January 2026. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of February 13, 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. \$83,000 through Employment and Social Development Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Grant for public awareness campaigns to promote social connections for seniors. Funded by the District of Saanich through their grant award from Employment and Social Development Canada.

Applications Submitted

1. \$30,000 through Union of BC Municipalities' Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to provide additional Emergency Operations Center equipment and training.
2. \$10,000 through the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's Outdoor Recreation Fund for maintenance and safety improvements to the Sturdies Bay Trail on Galiano Island. The project has a total cost of \$20,000.
3. \$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.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Eleven 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 February 13, 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 Appendix B also references CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.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
Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC – Outdoor Recreation Council of BC	20-Jan-26	Provides funding for initiatives that create and shape outdoor recreational and nature-based experiences.
EcoAction Stream 2: Freshwater Sustainability and Innovation across Canada – Canada Water Agency	20-Jan-26	This program supports projects that improve freshwater quality, ecosystem health and freshwater management through innovation, clean technology, circular economy approaches and improved data use.
Community Development Grants – Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities	06-Feb-26	Support help organizations who provide programming for kids between the ages of 4-18 in financial need or youth with disabilities between the ages of 4-25.
Education and Awareness Project Funding – Electric Vehicle Test Drives and Charging Education – Natural Resources Canada	19-Feb-26	This funding supports Canada’s transition to net-zero emissions by cost-sharing projects that increase confidence and practical understanding of EV charging through experiential learning and targeted education for key enablers.
Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training – Union of BC Municipalities	27-Feb-26	This fund supports BC local governments and Indigenous communities in improving their Emergency Operations Centres. Funding helps purchase equipment, supplies, and training needed to strengthen emergency response capacity in a changing climate.

Grant	Deadline	Information
Kal's Replay Fund – Kal Tire Ltd.	28-Feb-26	Kal's RePlay Fund provides grants for public infrastructure upgrades using recycled rubber products. Funding is for the purchase and installation of recycled rubber products.
Community Grant – Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation	28-Feb-26	This program offers small grants to support conservation projects that involve volunteers and build community awareness.
Capacity Grants – Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation	28-Feb-26	This grant supports communities as they build the skills, planning, and early-stage capacity needed to design and deliver conservation projects that benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
Age-friendly Communities Program – BC Healthy Communities	12-Mar-26	The Age-friendly Communities Grant Program helps communities respond to aging populations by supporting initiatives that promote independence, inclusion, and community participation among older adults.
Local Government Development Approvals – Union of BC Municipalities	13-Mar-26	This program supports BC local governments in improving and modernizing their development approvals processes. The program funds projects that streamline approvals, improve efficiency, align with best practices, and support innovation, including standardized housing designs and modern construction methods.
Residential Resilience Financing – Green Municipal Fund	01-Jun-26	This program helps Canadian municipalities expand or design Property Assessed Clean Energy–based financing programs that support homeowners in completing climate adaptation upgrades. This funding supports studies that integrate resilience measures like flood protection, wildfire mitigation, and extreme weather retrofits into existing home energy financing programs.

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