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REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 03, 2024

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the Finance Committee and the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board a bimonthly update on external grants activity for the period between April 16, 2024 and June 17, 2024.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in May 2024. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of 2024. Appendix B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2024 referencing CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$1,710,037 (CRD portion of \$6.4M) through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program's Green Infrastructure Stream to fund the CRD's Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network Project, which in partnership with the City of Victoria, will install approximately 596 EV chargers at 80 locations across the region. This has an estimated total project cost of \$8,700,000.
2. \$369,429 through the Province of BC's Local Government Climate Action Fund to support a range of climate action projects that align with the CleanBC Roadmap, from 2024 until 2026 across the Capital Region. Projects include building and transportation initiatives, as well as investments to infrastructure.
3. \$100,000 through the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Bloom Fund to support the Maxwell Park Preservation and Improvement Project. New trails and signage will be added to the park. This has an estimated total project cost of \$115,000.
4. \$25,000 through Employment and Social Development Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program to fund equipment and programming at Dinner Bay Park on Mayne Island.
5. \$5,000 through the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grant to purchase full height mirrors and barres for the Salt Spring Island Multi Space facility on Salt Spring Island, to facilitate ballet classes. This has an estimated total project cost of \$10,000.

There is one grant under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Eight CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$350,000 through the Union of BC Municipalities’ Community Resiliency Investment Program to support a FireSmart education campaign, along side other smaller initiatives to reduce wildfire risk.
2. \$149,995 through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s (CMHC) Seed Funding Program to support early development activities for the 186-unit 1800 McKenzie Phase 1 project.
3. \$149,995 through the CMHC’s Seed Funding Program to support early development activities for the 215-unit Cloverhurst-Amberlea project.
4. \$149,995 through the CMHC’s Seed Funding Program to support early development activities for the 162-unit Grey Oak Square project.
5. \$149,995 through the CMHC’s Seed Funding Program to support early development activities for the 97-unit Swanlea project.
6. \$149,995 through the CMHC’s Seed Funding Program to support early development activities for the 110-unit Verdier project.
7. \$28,000 through Heritage BC’s Heritage Legacy Fund to remove significant and damaging graffiti from the historic Goldstream Powerhouse and perform restorative work. - estimated total project cost \$56,000.
8. \$3,942 through Outdoor Recreation Council of BC’s Outdoor Recreation Fund to create a new information kiosk for Henderson Park on Mayne Island. - estimated total project cost \$8,000.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Twelve 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 June 17, 2024) and lists recently closed grants for 2024. Appendix B also references CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.

Table 1: Grant Calls Issued

Grant	Deadline	Information
AgriSpirit Fund – Farm Credit Canada	15-May-24	Funding for food waste reduction, supporting agriculture and food, reducing the environmental footprint and accessibility projects
Environmental Damages Fund – Environment and Climate Change Canada	30-May-24	Opportunities for restoration, environmental quality improvement, research and education projects
Hosting BC – ViaSport BC	31-May-24	Support for hosting sporting events that encourage economic and community development
Community Park Enhancement Fund – BC Parks	31-May-24	Funding for conservation or recreation projects in community parks

Grant	Deadline	Information
Watershed Grants – Watershed Security Fund	26-Jun-24	Supports projects and initiatives that advance resiliency in BC watersheds
PlanH Healthy Communities Grant – BC Healthy Communities	04-Jul-24	Funding to support local governments to advance policies, programs and strategies aimed at improving health equity and well-being
Growing Canada’s Community Canopies Initiative – Green Municipal Fund	12-Jul-24	Funding for tree planning initiatives
Community Development Grants – Jumpstart Foundation	12-Jul-24	Support for delivering sport and recreation programming to children
Enabling Accessibility Fund – Employment and Social Development Canada	23-Jul-24	Supports infrastructure projects that improve accessibility and safety for persons with disabilities
ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund – Province of BC	02-Aug-24	Funding to create new childcare spaces
Capacity Development Partner Grant – Green Municipal Fund	07-Aug-24	Funding for basic and in-depth technical training to advance climate adaptation knowledge and skills
Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation – Green Municipal Fund	14-Aug-24	Support for equity-information climate adaptation projects incorporating low-carbon and nature-positive community benefits

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: 2024 External Grants Dashboard
- Appendix B: 2024 Grant Alerts