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## REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

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**SUBJECT**     **Union of British Columbia Municipalities Grant for Disaster Risk Reduction  
- Climate Adaptation 2024 - Motion of Support**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Protective Services Division wishes to apply under two categories of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) grant funded by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a motion of support from the local government.

### **BACKGROUND**

CRD Protective Services Division regularly applies for UBCM CEPF grants as they become available. Successful applications allow Protective Services to undertake enhanced emergency management preparation and elevate our collective awareness of the risks facing the region.

With the new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* in force as of December 2023, local authorities have an additional responsibility to not only prepare and maintain a risk assessment, emergency plan, and business continuity plans, these documents must also be submitted to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) for review.

As prescribed in the new *EDMA*, these new risk assessments must take into account “changes in the local climate or extreme weather events that can reasonably be expected to result from a changing global climate”. Considering the above legislation, the Protective Services team intends to collaborate with the CRD’s Climate Action team to determine project scope and consult the current research literature to conduct this risk assessment.

The total grant funding requested by the CRD in the two categories is \$180,000. The Protective Services team is looking to apply under the *Category 1: Foundation Activities* stream of this grant for \$150,000 in funding to perform a consolidated climate risk assessment and vulnerability study for the area within the CRD. These climate risk assessments are critical to meet the newly legislated requirements for updating the regional emergency plans and identifying opportunities for future mitigation and resiliency initiatives to minimize the potential impacts of climate driven emergencies.

Under this same grant the Protectives Services team, in conjunction with CRD Corporate Communications, wishes to apply for funding under *Category 2: Non-Structural Projects*. Corporate Communications is proposing to install permanent signage advising residents in vulnerable areas, such as the Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island, of current water restriction levels (similar to roadside Fire Danger Rating signage) and is seeking \$30,000 for the construction and installation of the initiative.

The Protective Services team is endeavoring to leverage the \$150,000 portion available through this grant to generate an updated consolidated risk assessment. From this re-established risk awareness foundation, Protective Services intends to build out updated emergency plans relevant for the entire region. Moreover, the information contained in a re-tooled risk assessment

would be available for all the departments of the CRD, including critical infrastructure departments which are identified in the *EDMA* legislation, to use to validate or enhance their emergency and business continuity plans as required.

While the final format requirements of the risk assessments, emergency plans, and business continuity plans has yet to be determined by EMCR, risk assessments must be based on studies and surveys, Indigenous knowledge, consultation and coordination with local authorities, and consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. Moreover, and specifically relevant for this grant application, *EDMA* governed risk assessments must be based on “*changes in the local climate or extreme weather events that can reasonably be expected to result from a changing global climate*” (*EDMA*; Part 4: Division 3 – Plans, Programs and Other Measures; Risk assessments: Section 51(4)(c)). With this requirement in mind, a consolidated risk assessment that considers climate change is within scope of eligibility for this grant. This effort will also consolidate any climate resiliency and planning tools and relevant reports into a single library to inform the risk assessment and share with key stakeholders to assist in their collective climate planning activities.

As well as the obvious benefits to the CRD of a successful grant application and subsequent risk assessment and signage projects, we believe the information gathered would be of value for our Indigenous and local authority partners as it would enhance our collective understanding of current and future climate related risks facing the area and would help facilitate and inform a coordinated planning effort across the region.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That the Capital Regional District Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness for the 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation grant and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

### *Alternative 2*

That staff be directed to not submit a grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Emergency Preparedness for the 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation grant.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

This work will increase the CRD’s and our Indigenous and local authority partners’ knowledge, and awareness of changes in the region’s risk profile due to climate-related hazards. This satisfies the provincially mandated *EDMA* requirement to consult, coordinate, and cooperate with the CRD’s partner agencies.

### *Financial Implications*

This CEPF grant request will be for \$180,000 (\$150,000 and \$30,000) and would allow the CRD to install drought signage and pursue risk and hazard knowledge enhancement on an accelerated timeline that would not be possible within the current budget.

*Service Delivery Implications*

Additional capacity funded through this grant would inform emergency and resiliency plans and enhance the CRD's ability to respond and support the citizens, critical infrastructure, and business units in the CRD during an emergency or disaster.

*Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

Updated consolidated risk assessments 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. The objectives of these grant funded projects would facilitate the CRD to meet the following Board and corporate priorities:

Board Priorities:

- Climate Action & Environment  
3c – Increase resilience, community and adaptation planning to address climate risks and disasters.
- First Nations  
4c – Invite, respect, and incorporate Indigenous leadership and traditional knowledge to enhance initiatives and strategies that support other priorities in the plan.

Corporate Plan:

- Climate Action  
6a-1 – Promote community capacity building on climate action.  
6a-2 – Update the climate projections for the capital region to support decision making and to help community partners understand how their work may be affected by our changing climate.  
6a-3 – Generate analysis to understand vulnerability and exposure to heat now and in the future.
- Safety & Emergency Management.  
9a-1 – Support planning for regional scale emergencies in cooperation with the Regional Emergency Management Program.
- First Nations  
15b-2 – Seek out and invite opportunities for Indigenous leadership and knowledge to inform and transform approaches to taking care of land and water, across CRD service delivery areas.
- Local Government  
16g-3 – Review and modernize fire and emergency management programs.

*Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

Capacity generated by this grant is aligned with existing emergency preparedness and strategies for Protective Services and will be critical to meeting legislated planning requirements.

**CONCLUSION**

The CRD is required and motivated to maintain an effective emergency management program compliant with provincial legislation. The knowledge enhancement of climate risks and vulnerabilities that will be gained through the UBCM CEPF DRR-CA grant will greatly assist the CRD's endeavor to meet those regulatory expectations while improving response and mitigation planning capability for our citizens and partners.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That the Capital Regional District Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness for the 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation grant and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, CD, BHSc, MAL, Senior Manager, Protective Services
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services
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Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
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**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: CEPF Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation Grant 2024