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REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2025

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 October 22, 2024 and December 11, 2024.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in November. The External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details applications submitted, updated, awarded and declined as of December 11, 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. \$71,900 from Regional District Basic Grant program to assist with general administrative costs in 2024. This unconditional funding is provided to all regional districts annually.
2. \$65,000 through the Island Coastal Economic Trust's Capital and Innovation Program to support the construction of the Schooner Way Trail. This project will create a "destination trail" to encourage economic development, social empowerment and environmental sustainability. This project phase has a total cost of \$1,234,075.

There are two grants under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Four CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$278,000 through Union of British Columbia Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Program for fire department training and equipment. Funds will permit fire departments in the Electoral Areas of Juan de Fuca and Southern Gulf Island to upgrade equipment such as personal protective gear and facilitate training courses.
2. \$40,000 through BC Ministry of Forestry's Forest Investment Program for reconnaissance, survey and costs to evaluate the potential for reforestation within Sooke Hills Regional Park. The funding will be used to assess the impacts of the recent wildfire, develop strategies for ecological recovery and improve climate resilience. It will also support the creation of a wildfire response protocol to enhance future preparedness and foster positive working relationships with First Nations communities in the area.

3. \$15,876 through Employment and Social Development Canada’s Summer Jobs Program for summer employment positions for two youth at Salt Spring Island Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture.
4. \$4,462 through BC Civil Forfeiture Office’s Police Equipment and Training Program for purchasing equipment that will improve evidence collection for Regional Park bylaw enforcement. The equipment will enhance the ability to detect violations and protect park resources.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Nineteen 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 October 22, 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
Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training (2024) – UBCM	18-Oct-24	Funding to build resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments through the purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training.
Forest Investment Program – BC Ministry of Forestry	14-Nov-24	Funding for reforestation, forest nutrient management, enhancing forest resiliency, and activities that help deliver healthier, more resilient forests and provide contributions to mitigating climate change.
National Holocaust Remembrance Program – Department of Canadian Heritage	21-Nov-24	Funding for initiatives that seek to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and help improve Canadians' understanding and awareness of the Holocaust and contemporary antisemitism.
Police Equipment and Training Grant – BC Civil Forfeiture Office	9-Dec-24	Funding to support communities in preventing and addressing issues of crime, violence and victimization.
Climate-Ready Plans and Processes – Green Municipal Fund	10-Dec-24	Funding for projects that enhance long term climate resilience in communities equitably and inclusively.
Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program, Utility Support Stream – Natural Resources Canada	13-Dec-24	Funding to support deployment of clean electricity infrastructure - such as wind turbines, solar panels, batteries, and other technologies - and aims to modernize and strengthen electricity grid to ensure a reliable, affordable and decarbonized electricity system for all Canadians.

Grant	Deadline	Information
Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program – Natural Resources Canada	13-Dec-24	Funding for renewable energy and capacity building projects to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels for heating and electricity in Indigenous, rural and remote communities across Canada.
Canada Summer Jobs Program – Employment and Social Development Canada	19-Dec-24	Funding to provide summer employment opportunities for youth to develop skills and gain paid work experience to successfully transition into the labour market.
Family Violence Prevention Program – Indigenous Services Canada	20-Dec-24	Funding for the operations of emergency shelters and transitional (second stage) housing to improve the safety and security of Indigenous women, children, families and 2SLGBTQI+ people.
Water Meter Pilot Program – Province of BC	30-Jan-25	Support for water meter purchasing and installation for smaller water services.
Community Regreening Program - BC Hydro	31-Jan-25	Funding to support the planting of trees and other vegetation that help enhance ecological networks across the province. The program also helps to ensure the right trees are planted near our power lines.
Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant - Intact Financial	31-Jan-25	Funding for practical solutions to protect people from effects of climate change and build more resilient communities.
Growing Canada's Community Canopies: Tree Planting - Green Municipal Fund	5-Feb-25	Funding for tree planting in communities so that they can grow, manage, and protect tree canopies. Includes activities such as street tree planting, urban planting, park tree planting, riparian planting and forest restoration and reforestation.
Next Generation 911 - UBCM	14-Feb-25	Funding to support local preparedness for the implementation of N9011, and to provide funding to eligible recipients to support the transition and operational readiness of existing 911 services to NG911.
Accelerating Community energy systems - Green Municipal Fund	21-Feb-25	Funding for a study that identifies opportunity areas for low-carbon community energy systems (including renewable and district energy systems) within communities and develops mechanisms to support implementation.
Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund - Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada	31-Mar-25	Funding for planning or capital projects that would build or upgrade drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, or solid-waste infrastructure to enable more housing through two streams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct delivery stream 2. Provincial and territorial agreement stream

Grant	Deadline	Information
Regional Homebuilding Innovation Initiative in British Columbia - Government of Canada	31-Mar-26	Funding to support local innovative housing solutions across B.C.
Capital project: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) impact retrofit - Green Municipal Fund	Continuous	Funding for retrofitting a local recreational or cultural facility to reduce GHG emissions.

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