

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

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 June 18, 2024 and August 19, 2024.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in July 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. \$700,000 through the Union of BC Municipalities' Community Resiliency Investment Program to fund the CRD's 2024-2025 FireSmart Community Funding and Supports project, supporting a wide range of eligible FireSmart related activities such as education, emergency planning, education and training.
2. \$207,500 through BC Hydro's Corporate Energy Manager program to support a corporate energy manager within the CRD for two years. Funding will be utilized to document, track and report on relevant metrics to improve long term sustainability.
3. \$10,000 through the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grants Fund to support the Portlock Park Well Revitalization Project. This project will install a new deep well pump to irrigate the playing field which will improve field conditions and minimize closures.
4. \$4,000 through the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Grants Fund to install new bleachers at Portlock Park. Existing bleachers are at end of life and need to be replaced. This project has a total estimated cost of \$9,000.

There is one grant under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Three CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$369,500 through Natural Resources Canada's Build and Mobilize Foundational Wildland Fire Knowledge Program for the CRD's Wildfire Table and Braided Knowledge Mobilization Initiative to co-develop a framework for regional capacity building, resource sharing and risk mitigation strategies between governments and agencies, improving wildfire resiliency. The estimated total project cost \$394,000.

2. \$236,151 through the Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation program to enhance the capacity of local governments and First Nations in the CRD, responding to current and projected climate risks. Funding will be used for training and education activities. The estimated total project cost \$262,390.
3. \$12,195 through Employment and Social Development Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund to install hearing loops in the reception and program areas in the SEAPARC recreation facility, improving accessibility. The estimated total project cost \$16,195.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Six 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 August 19, 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 |
|--|-----------|---|
| New Horizons for Seniors Program – Employment and Social Development Canada | 12-Sep-24 | Supports projects that improve the health and well-being of seniors in their communities |
| Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding Program – Province of BC | 15-Sep-24 | Funding for resilience preparation such as data collection and planning, as well as risk reducing capital projects |
| Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program for Owners – Natural Resources Canada | 19-Sep-24 | Provides funding for projects focusing on public electric vehicle charger deployment, at workplaces and for vehicle fleets |
| Commercial Vehicle Pilots Program – CleanBC | 30-Sep-24 | Financial incentives to encourage and accelerate the adoption of commercial zero-emission vehicles. |
| Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program – Province of BC | 31-Oct-24 | Support for rural economic development projects via two relevant streams: 1. Economic Capacity: Aims to build economic capacity through projects such as Community Assessments, Engagement, Professional development programs, staffing. 2. Economic Diversity: Funds for development and planning projects and funds for implement projects resulting in new programs or assets. |

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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| Concurrence: | Kristen Morley, J.D., Acting Chief Administrative Officer |

ATTACHMENTS

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