

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 05, 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 December 12, 2024 and February 17, 2025.

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 February 17, 2025. Appendix B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2025 referencing CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$144,430 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.
2. \$15,400 through BC Hydro's Integrated Energy Audit initiative. This project will audit energy usage at the CRD's Mill Hill Park office and identify opportunities for more efficient energy management, to reduce GHG emissions and operating costs.

There are two grants under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Four CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$60,000 through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Transit Minor Betterments Program to assist in the construction of new bus shelters on Salt Spring Island.
2. \$40,000 through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training stream of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. This project will modernization and training of the CRD Emergency Support Service team.
3. \$5,000 through the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's Outdoor Recreation Fund, to help build a trail head information kiosk at Henderson Park on Mayne Island. This project has a total cost of \$10,000.
4. \$4,500 through BC Hydro's Community ReGreeningProgram for tree planting at Dinner Bay Park on Mayne Island. This project has a total cost of \$7,000.

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 February 17, 2025) and lists recently closed grants for 2025. Appendix B also references CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.

Table 1: Grant Calls Issued

Grant	Deadline	Information
Codes Acceleration Fund – Natural Resources Canada	10-Jan-25	Support for energy code projects relating to reducing GHG emissions.
Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training – UBCM	31-Jan-25	Support for local government emergency support services, through funding for equipment and training.
Organics Funding Program – CleanBC	13-Feb-25	Funding for projects that help reduce GHG emissions, by diverting organic waste from landfills.
Outdoor Recreation Fund of British Columbia – Outdoor Recreation Council of BC	20-Feb-25	Support for community-based initiatives that create outdoor and nature based experiences.
Active Transportation Fund – Capital Project Stream – Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada	26-Feb-25	Funding for active transportation capital projects.
Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund – Environment and Climate Change Canada	Continuous	Funding for projects that reduce the loss, restore, or improve the management of ecosystems.

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: 2025 External Grants Dashboard
Appendix B: 2025 Grant Alerts