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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

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**SUBJECT     Union of British Columbia Municipalities Grant for Emergency Support Services - Motion of Support**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

Protective Services has applied to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) 2024 grant stream for funding to purchase technology and equipment for the Capital Regional District (CRD) cross-electoral area (EA) virtual Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) team (Appendix A). This team has been trained to provide Emergency Support Services (ESS) virtually when required. UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a motion of support from the local government and so a motion is required to move forward with the grant.

**BACKGROUND**

Under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)*, the CRD is responsible for the provision of ESS in the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands EAs.

The Province has introduced an online registration tool known as the ERA tool. This tool enables the provision of virtual support to residents displaced by emergencies. Protective Services has formed a team of ESS volunteers drawn from each of the three EAs who have undergone the requisite ERA training, as well as Cultural Perspectives and Accessibility training. This empowers our ESS volunteers to provide aid to residents and fellow ESS volunteers in neighboring communities in the event of an evacuation order that surpasses the existing ESS capacity in that area. To effectively access and utilize the new ERA tool and support ESS, additional training and equipment will be required.

The funding requested through the UBCM CEPF 2024 grant will benefit the three EA emergency programs and residents equally, as all three have volunteers on the CRD virtual ERA Team. Funding will additionally bolster and enhance collaborative, multi-jurisdictional responses to emergencies and disasters across the region. The grant request totals \$29,970.

**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 Emergency Support Services Grant 2024 and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

*Alternative 2*

That staff be directed to not submit a grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island Emergency programs for the Emergency Support Services funding stream.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

The grant funding will have no impact on annual core Emergency Program budgets and the requisition revenue, but if the grant application is successful, the additional funding will allow greater community resilience during emergency events.

**CONCLUSION**

CRD Board support for this grant will allow Protective Services to strengthen ESS capacity in the CRD EAs while enhancing collaborative, multi-jurisdictional responses to emergencies and disasters across the region.

**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 Emergency Support Services Grant 2024 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
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A – UBCM Emergency Support Services 2024 Application Form