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**REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06, 2024**

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the Finance Committee and the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board a bimonthly update on external grants activity for the period between December 19, 2023 and February 19, 2024.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented in January 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B provides a summary of grant alerts for 2024 referencing CRD grant applications approved, pending and declined/withdrawn.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants/Contributions Awarded

1. \$9,922,687 through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Rapid Housing Initiative – Cities Stream to support the creation of new permanent affordable housing
2. \$252,492 through the Province of British Columbia's (BC) Local Government Housing Initiative to support zoning and development projects needed to meet new legislative requirements through projects such as Official Development Plan updates, Housing Needs Reports as well as other activities
3. \$25,000 through BC Hydro's Energy Audit Program to help fund an integrated energy audit of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant, includes profiling energy demand/consumption and development of an opportunity registry
4. \$7,513 through CleanBC's Custom Incentive Program to help fund electrification of Panorama's dehumidification system and support an associated greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction study
5. \$1,000 through the BC Recreation and Parks Association's 2024 Family Day Grant Program to support Family Day activities at The Sooke and Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)

There are three grants under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Six CRD applications were submitted:

1. \$100,000 through the Island Coastal Economic Trust’s Capital and Innovation Program to fund the Schooner Way-School Trail on Pender Island - estimated total project cost \$1,430,000
2. \$50,000 through the BC Alliance for Healthy Living’s Active Community Grants to fund SEAPARC programs aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration of those with breast cancer and brain injuries - estimated total project cost \$55,250
3. \$32,200 through the BC Alliance For Healthy Living’s Active Community Grants to fund Panorama Recreation programming to support tennis instruction for Saanich Peninsula schools - estimated total project cost \$39,710
4. \$29,970 through Union of BC Municipalities’ (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to support modernization of the CRD’s Virtual Evacuee Registration and Assistance Team through the purchase of specialized equipment
5. \$5,485 through Canadian Tire Jumpstart’s Community Development Grants to fund Panorama Recreation programming to support tennis instruction for Saanich Peninsula schools - estimated total project cost \$39,710
6. \$4,557 through BC Hydro’s Community ReGreening Program to support the beautification of the Dinner Bay Park Fitness Circuit on Mayne Island - estimated total project cost \$7,000

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Forty 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 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
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant – TD Bank Group	15-Jan-24 15-Jul-24	A national charity that funds environmental projects across Canada
Energy Innovation Program – National Energy Systems Modelling Call – Public Health Agency of Canada	26-Jan-24	Funding for energy sector technology and its role in achieving a net-zero emissions economy
Emergency Support Services (ESS) equipment and training – UBCM	26-Jan-24 31-Jan-25	For volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training as well as equipment to support the modernization of ESS
Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways (SREP’s) Program Capacity Building Stream – Natural Resource Canada	31-Jan-24	Funds to transition to a cleaner electrical grid with renewable energy, energy storage and grid modernization

Grant	Deadline	Information
2024 Family Day Event Grant – BC Recreation and Parks Association	01-Feb-24	Funds to support community recreational and cultural activities that will be free of charge over the Family Day weekend
Active Communities Grant Program – BC Alliance for Healthy Living	05-Feb-24	Create or expand accessible physical activity opportunities by reducing financial and transportation barriers
Our Priorities Fund – Real Estate Foundation of BC	07-Feb-24	Funds to support law and policy reform around land use, fresh water, built environments, food sovereignty and the real estate profession
Low Carbon Economy Challenge – Environment and Climate Change Canada	08-Feb-24	Leverages Canadian ingenuity to reduce GHG emissions and generate clean growth
Research and Knowledge Initiative – Infrastructure Canada	09-Feb-24	Funds projects focused on key Government of Canada research and data priorities related to housing, infrastructure and communities
Active Transportation Planning - UBCM	09-Feb-24	Incorporating active transportation components into formal planning documents
ParticipACTION Community Challenge – ParticipACTION Canada	13-Feb-24	To help promote and deliver sport and physical activity opportunities to equity-denied populations
Community Salmon Program – Pacific Salmon Foundation	15-Feb-24 15-Oct-24	To provide resources to enable the public to participate in Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Salmon Enhancement Program
Green Jobs Initiative – Canadian Parks and Recreation Association	16-Feb-24	Funding to support learning experiences for youth in the green jobs sector
Canadian Tourism and Growth Program – Pacific Economic Development Canada	20-Feb-24	Funding for local communities to grow and develop tourism products and experiences
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program – Organizational Capacity Building Component Heritage Canada	22-Feb-24	Provide funding to build an organization's internal capacity to meet the objectives of the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program
Energy Innovation Program – Utilization Focus Area – Natural Resources Canada	23-Feb-24	Supports research, development and carbon dioxide utilization technologies that reduce costs, energy and permanent carbon sequestration
Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund – Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	25-Feb-24	Funds to help community event organizers recover from cost increases, reduced sponsorship and severe weather events
Canada Post Community Foundation Grants – Canada Post	01-Mar-24	Funding for projects that create or expand services such as purchasing new equipment or launching new programs

Grant	Deadline	Information
Local Government Development Approvals Program – UBCM	08-Mar-24	To improve development approval processes while meeting local government planning and policy objectives
Connecting Communities – Government of BC	14-Mar-24	Funds for broadband infrastructure for underserved households in areas that lack internet service
Rapid Housing Initiative – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	31-Mar-24	Funding for permanent affordable housing for vulnerable and targeted populations
BC Employer Training Grant – Work BC	31-Mar-24	To support skills training for new hires to increasing job security or a move into better jobs for employees
Canada Arts Presentation Fund – Heritage Canada	01-Apr-24 15-Oct-24	Funds for organizations that offer support to arts presenters
Arts Impact Grant – BC Arts Council	02-Apr-24	Funding for arts and cultural organization’s foundational, community, or artistic and cultural impact
Community to Community Program (C2C) – UBCM	05-Apr-24 06-Sep-24 06-Dec-24	To support C2C forums and First Nation-local government reconciliation and relationship building through agreements, joint plans and/or strategies for reviewing by-laws and/or policies
Public Notifications and Evacuation Route Planning – UBCM	26-Apr-24	Funding programs to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies
Community Development Grants – Canadian Tire Jumpstart	30-Apr-24 31-Aug-24 31-Dec-24	Two funding streams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programming Support – develop or sustain the delivery of sport or physical-based activities 2. Operational Support – to build inclusive, equitable, safe sport participation experiences
Asset Management Planning – UBCM	10-May-24 27-Sep-24	To support planning grants, training subsidies and the development of asset management resources
Plastics Action Fund – Alacrity Canada	02-Dec-24	To support new projects and project financing in the Regional Plastics Innovation Category in communities with a population of less than 25,000
Codes Acceleration Fund – Natural Resources Canada	31-Mar-27	To adopt the highest energy performance such as net-zero emissions codes for municipal and regional governments with two streams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authority to adopt energy codes 2. No authority to adopt energy codes

Grant	Deadline	Information
Community Building Retrofit Initiative – Green Municipal Fund	Continuous (limited funding)	Retrofit existing community buildings to lower GHG emissions and extend their life cycle
Integrated Energy Audit – BC Hydro	Continuous	An integrated energy audit to Improve efficiency and managing energy costs
Green Municipal Fund – Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Continuous	Funding for constructing sustainable municipal buildings, community energy systems, waste-to-energy projects, fleet electrification and net-zero transformation
Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program – Natural Resources Canada	Continuous	Provides funding for renewable energy and capacity building projects in rural and remote communities. Accepting application for only two steams: 1. Biomass heating, district heating, combined heat and power systems 2. Research, development, and demonstration projects
Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program – Events Component – Heritage Canada	Continuous	Funding for community-based events that promote intercultural or interfaith understanding or celebrate a community’s history and culture
Capital Project: Stormwater quality, community project – Green Municipal Fund	Continuous	A low-interest loan with a grant for a capital project to remove 60% of total suspended solids and other contaminants (e.g., E. coli, salt, grease) from stormwater treatment
Connecting BC Program – Phase Two: Connectivity Infrastructure Strategy	Continuous	To support the development of regional connectivity infrastructure

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:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

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