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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 09, 2022

SUBJECT **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Union of British Columbia Municipalities Emergency Support Services 2022 Grant Application**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is responsible for providing emergency management support to the Electoral Areas (EAs), and includes Emergency Support Service (ESS) delivery to residents displaced by an emergency. The CRD has applied for a grant through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to increase EA ESS capacity. UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a motion of support from the local government.

BACKGROUND

UBCM provides funding for a range of community based projects, including ESS. A 2022 grant opportunity is available to support local governments as they build capacity to deliver ESS. The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Support Services Grant program supports activities to bolster short term supports to residents forced from their homes by fire, flood, or other emergencies. ESS is a provincially administered program. Under the *Emergency Program Act*, municipalities and regional districts are responsible to provide ESS within their jurisdiction.

The ESS Grant funding would benefit all three CRD EA Emergency Programs by modernizing legacy procedures, improving volunteer recruitment and retention, and augmenting resources for emergency reception centers and group lodging facilities. The total grant request is \$22,502.40 and projects must be completed within one year.

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 Fund for the Emergency Support Services 2022 grant program and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

Alternative 2

That staff be directed to withdraw the grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Support Services grant program.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The grant would not impact annual EA Emergency Program budgets, but provides an opportunity for one-time projects that increase ESS capacity.

Operational Implications

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, the CRD is obligated to provide ESS to residents. Grants provide opportunity for one-time projects that increase emergency program capacity to support residents impacted by a disaster. This grant will support modernization of EA ESS programs, improve volunteer recognition and retention, and increase capacity to activate reception centers and group lodging facilities during an emergency.

CONCLUSION

The CRD is responsible for delivering ESS programs in the EAs. The UBCM ESS grant program is an opportunity to improve existing capacity in the EAs and meet the regional district's mandate under the *Emergency Program Act*.

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 Fund for the Emergency Support Services 2022 grant program 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:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: UBCM Emergency Support Services Grant Application