

**REPORT TO FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

SUBJECT Recycling Outreach Assistant Final Report

ISSUE SUMMARY

In 2019, CRD staff applied for a grant to Indigenous Services Canada to help fund an Indigenous intern to do outreach to First Nations communities on waste reduction. This report details the work that was undertaken.

BACKGROUND

First Nations have been taking care of the land since time immemorial with economies that sustained a rich life for thousands of years. Since the arrival of Europeans to Southern Vancouver Island and with the growth of the global consumer economy, there has been an increase in environmental challenges in the region. One of these challenges is waste creation.

The CRD regularly hires outreach students to deliver programming to CRD communities on environmental sustainability and waste reduction. In the summer of 2017 the CRD hired a student whose focus was to do outreach to First Nations communities. The student spent time building relationships and learning lessons that will assist the CRD with future work.

In the summer of 2019, the CRD had an opportunity to work again with a youth from Songhees to continue this work of sharing education with First Nations and understanding better what the needs are in reducing our shared waste diversion challenge.

The youth from Songhees Nation was hired in June of 2019 and worked until the end of November 2019. They organized community outreach and waste diversion stations for the yellow wolf pow-wow, the Native Friendship Centre, First Nations administration buildings and several local schools. They organized a successful community education event for Songhees and Esquimalt and started a Ləkʷəŋən Green Team. As part of this event they conducted a community survey and a recycling audit. They managed to undertake some training through the Coast Waste management association conference and with Indigenous Services Canada where they ended up working after they finished their term. The specific objectives of this work included:

- To build relationships with First Nations to help understand the needs around waste diversion;
- To provide appropriate education opportunities to First Nations Communities;
- To assist First Nations Administrations and Communities with their efforts in Waste Diversion;
- To provide outreach to Indigenous events taking place in the summer and Fall of 2019; and,
- To take on specific projects or activities that will help First Nations communities with Waste Diversion.

Attached is the report of their work. This was a successful and tangible project the CRD was able

to work on in partnership with someone from one of the local Nations. Conversations are ongoing with Indigenous Service Canada staff to see about further partnership opportunities.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Recycling Outreach Assistant Final Report be received for information.

Alternative 2

The First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the report be referred back to staff for additional information, as directed.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The 2019 – 2022 CRD Board Priorities include Reconciliation with First Nations, specifically:

- 3b Seek partnerships, share information and deliver fair and equitable services in working with First Nations on achieving their economic goals.
- 3c Work with First Nations on taking care of the land and water while providing space for cultural and ceremonial use, food and medicine harvesting, traditional management practices and reclaiming Indigenous place names.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

This work is also related to the Regional Climate Action Strategy.

CONCLUSION

Staff worked with the federal government to secure grants for First Nations outreach regarding solid waste diversion. A summary of this work is attached to this report for information for the committee. Staff will continue to explore partnerships of this nature with local First Nations in achieving their goals.

RECOMMENDATION

The First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Recycling Outreach Assistant Final Report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Don Elliott, MUP, Manager, First Nations Relations
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: 2019 Recycling Outreach report