

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020**

SUBJECT **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP); Community, Culture, and Recreation Funding Stream**

ISSUE SUMMARY

A Capital Regional District (CRD) Board resolution is required for grant applications to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP); Community, Culture, and Recreation (CCR) funding stream.

BACKGROUND

On June 25, 2020, BC and Canada announced the second intake of the CCR stream to support infrastructure projects across the province. For this intake, the program has \$100.6M available in funding for eligible projects. The first intake was in 2019 and was oversubscribed, with \$134M allocated to projects under the RNC stream.

Regional districts are an eligible recipient under the grant program and permitted to submit one application for each community. For ICIP, a community refers to a settlement area with a regional district or an established/proposed service area.

Applications for CCR are due October 1, 2020 and must include a Board resolution. Staff have identified three projects that meet eligibility requirements within this program stream.

PROGRAM	LOCATION	PROJECT	REQUEST (\$)	APPENDIX
CCR	Regional	Elk Beaver Lake Oxygenation System	\$700,000	A
CCR	Sub-Regional	Panorama Energy Recovery Project	\$1,700,000	B
CCR	Salt Spring Island (SSI)	Fernwood Elementary School Athletic Field Upgrades	\$585,500	C

Based on past experience, disclosure of unsuccessful applications, and feedback from various provincial and federal funders, staff have developed an assessment tool to evaluate competing applications and limit submissions for a higher probability of success from the funder. Key factors include Ministry consultation and advice, as well as regional distribution. All projects were also reviewed according to key determinants of success: alignment with grant program requirements, sustainable service delivery, and grant history.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Capital Regional District submit one application, as endorsed in the following resolution:

That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for the Regional: Elk Beaver Lake Oxygenation System Project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture, and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$700,000) of the project.

Alternative 2

That the Capital Regional District submit applications for three proposals, as endorsed in the following resolutions:

1. That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for the Regional: Elk Beaver Lake Oxygenation System Project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture, and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$700,000) of the project; and
2. That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for the Sub-regional: Panorama Energy Recovery Project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture, and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$700,000) of the project; and
3. That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for the SSI: Fernwood Elementary School Athletic Field Upgrades Project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$250,000) of the project.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

RESOURCES AND EXPECTATIONS

Developing grant applications is both time-consuming and resource demanding on services. As grant outcomes are unpredictable and shaped by factors outside of the CRD's control, resources and capacity are considered to ensure they are effectively distributed in a way that brings the most value.

The CRD's grant experience over the years reveals three key grant award patterns:

1. Multiple asks can result in zero wins;
2. Multiple asks can result in only one win, which is typically the lowest or near lowest ask; and
3. Focusing on one solid ask leads to greater success.

Based on these patterns, below is a more in-depth analysis of the implications with the two options on how we can approach the submission of applications.

OPTION		IMPLICATIONS
1	Submit all three proposals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone has a fair chance their project will be funded. 2. Lowest grant request may be awarded. 3. Affects relationships with funders. 4. Likelihood of all projects being funded is low. 5. Grant effort wasted with burden on capacity to complete the applications. 6. ICIP Program Officer selects the project and may not be the project that the organization had deemed most critical.
2	Submit one proposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tension between CRD Services. 2. The most critical project to maintain service levels and best aligned with grant program be put forth. 3. Consider ICIP Program Office advice.

It is important to manage expectations regarding grant outcomes if the option of submitting all applications is pursued. Grant programs are oversubscribed with highly qualified projects; the probability of being awarded for all four applications is remote. As an example, last year's submission approach to the 2019 intake of the Community, Culture and Recreation stream and the Rural and Northern Communities stream was to submit all four CRD projects, with the result that only one project was awarded a grant. Additional information including a grant history and funding program analysis on applications is summarized in Appendix D.

CONCLUSION

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program provides funding to infrastructure projects across BC. Previous intakes to the Community, Culture, and Recreation stream have been oversubscribed and the likelihood of all four applications being awarded is remote. Factors that impact successful grant applications include availability of funds and their equitable distribution across the province as well as program alignment. By taking a strategic approach in considering how many grant applications to submit, and which project(s) to submit, the CRD is taking ownership of project decisions and maximizing the funding request through selecting the best (and most critical) project to put forward.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for the Regional: Elk Beaver Lake Oxygenation System Project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture, and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$700,000) of the project.

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ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Elk Beaver Lake Oxygenation System
Appendix B: Panorama Energy Recovery Project
Appendix C: Fernwood Elementary School Athletic Field Upgrades
Appendix D: Infrastructure Funding History