

**REPORT TO HOSPITALS AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 03, 2021**

SUBJECT **Housing Needs Report Regional Project**

ISSUE SUMMARY

Receipt of an information report confirming the completion of the Regional Housing Needs Report Regional Project according to the terms of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Grant Program Requirements.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Provincial Government passed *Bill 18 – 2018: Local Government Statutes (Housing Needs Reports) Amendment Act, 2018*, which requires local governments to develop housing needs reports every five years.

To support municipalities and electoral areas in completing these reports, funding has been made available as grants through a UBCM program. The program is structured to reflect the planning areas for which local governments are required to complete housing needs reports: municipalities, electoral areas and local trust areas (within the Islands Trust). Funding is scaled based on the net population of the planning area and regional projects are possible where municipalities and electoral areas agree to work together.

Through the Development Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC), Capital Regional District (CRD) confirmed the participation of 11 local government authorities in a regional project through which the CRD would work with the participating local governments to manage a consulting contract to complete the respective Housing Needs Reports. These municipalities are listed in Appendix A. The remaining four municipalities completed independent projects in conjunction with other planning efforts already underway in their respective jurisdictions.

At its September 4, 2019 meeting, the CRD Board approved a resolution supporting a CRD application for a UBCM grant to support the initiative. Following this, to support the grant application requirements, the council or trust committee for each of the 11 participating local authorities passed resolution supporting its participation in the regional project. In January 2020, the CRD was informed that it had been approved for a grant of up to \$150,000 to support the regional project.

Working through DPAC and a Project Management Committee made up of participating local authorities, the CRD facilitated a Request for Proposal process through which Urban Matters was chosen to complete the project. Urban Matters completed 11 separate Housing Needs Reports, one for each jurisdiction.

In accordance with the requirements of the grant program, each of the local authorities have received the reports at their respective council or committee levels and links to all 11 reports will appear on the CRD website, making the reports available to the public.

CRD staff is in the process of compiling a final report to submit to UBCM to support the CRD receiving the remainder of the grant amount.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Hospitals and Housing Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Housing Needs Report Regional Project be received for information.

Alternative 2

That the Housing Needs Report Regional Project report be referred back to staff for additional information based on Hospitals and Housing Committee direction.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

As a recipient of the UBCM grant, the CRD is required to report the completion of the project to its elected authority and to monitor and ensure that the elected bodies for each participating local area government receives its completed Housing Needs Report. The CRD has received confirmation from all participating local governments that their local councils or committees have received their respective reports.

CONCLUSION

The CRD's leadership of this regional project provided the opportunity for 11 local area governments to collaborate in a cost effective approach to complete their respective Housing Needs Reports. The project completed under budget and provided documents through which each community can meet the requirements of the provincial legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

The Hospitals and Housing Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Housing Needs Report Regional Project be received for information.

Submitted by:	Don Elliott, MUP, Senior Manager, Regional Housing
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Attachment: Appendix A - Housing Needs Report