



Making a difference...together

## **REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021**

---

**SUBJECT**      **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund:      Emergency Operations  
Centres and Training Grant - Motion of Support**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is responsible for emergency preparedness in the Electoral Areas (EAs). The CRD is applying to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for funding to exercise and improve emergency response plans and train Electoral Area volunteers. UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a motion of support from the local government.

### **BACKGROUND**

UBCM provides funding for many community based projects, including projects that support community resiliency and emergency preparedness. A 2021 grant opportunity is available to provide training opportunities for emergency program volunteers in all three EAs. Emergency planning and training exercises will be held with the goal of improving and validating emergency response plans.

In December 2018, the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) reviewed the CRD's Emergency Program and offered the following recommendation: "The Capital Regional District should consider conducting full-scale and/or larger-scale joint exercises that test the collaboration of all relevant parties involved in responding to a major emergency in the region. Staff should continue completing progressive, smaller, in-house exercises to further increase familiarity with their roles and responsibilities and to validate emergency plans in preparation for the larger scale joint exercise". This grant opportunity facilitates meeting this recommendation.

Emergency Operation Centre and Training grant funding would benefit all CRD EA Emergency Programs: Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island. The maximum grant amount is \$25,000, which permits the CRD to facilitate two full-scale functional emergency exercises in the Electoral Areas, including participation from relevant first responder agencies, such as fire departments, police, ambulance, coast guard, search-and-rescue, and BC Ferries. Locations will be finalized upon grant approval.

As part of the application process, UBCM requires a motion of support from the local government to receive and manage grant funding.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board: That the CRD Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Emergency Operations Centres and Training grant and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

*Alternative 2*

That staff be directed to rescind the application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Emergency Operations Centres and Training grant.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

The grant will have no impact on annual Emergency Program budgets, but provides an opportunity for one-time projects that increase community resilience to emergencies.

*Operational Implications*

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, the CRD is obligated to provide Emergency Management Services to residents. Grants provide opportunity for one-time projects that increase emergency program capacity to support residents impacted by a disaster. These full-scale exercises validate emergency plans and allows the identification of opportunities for improvement when coordinating with external agencies. Due to the expense and complexity of facilitating successful functional emergency exercises, this grant offers the CRD an important opportunity to provide staff and volunteers with experience while meeting regulatory and accreditation requirements and fulfilling recommendations from the 2018 AGLG Audit Report.

**CONCLUSION**

The CRD is responsible for supporting emergency management programs in the EAs. The UBCM Emergency Operation Centres and Training grant is a key opportunity to improve emergency plans and offer training and development in the Electoral Areas. If supported by the Board, UBCM will consider the CRD's grant application.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board:  
That the CRD Board support an application to Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Emergency Operations Centres and Training grant 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