

**REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 07, 2021**

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

A bi-monthly update on external grants activity for the period of April 12 through June 14, 2021.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes activities and outcomes since the CRD External Grants Update was last presented at the May 2021 Board meeting. Additionally, the CRD External Grants Dashboard (Appendix A) details grant applications, awards, and status of projects in progress.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Grants / Contributions Awarded

1. \$750,000 through the Province of BC to support Elk/Beaver Lake Oxygenation System project.
2. \$175,000 through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Green Municipal Fund to support the Capital Region Residential Energy Retrofit program.
3. \$50,000 through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Municipal Asset Management Program to support the Asset Life-Cycle Assessment Policy and Procedures project.
4. \$10,000 increase in grant funds through UBCM's Active Transportation Plan grant to support the Active Transportation Plan for the Southern Gulf Islands project. Total funding received through this program is \$20,000 for this project.
5. \$500 through Salt Spring Island Foundation – Foundations of Youth Grant to support the Salt Spring Lifeguard School program.
6. \$400 through the 2021 ParticipACTION – Community Better Challenge Grant to support the Swim the Southern Gulf Islands project.

Five grants are under news embargo.

Applications Submitted

Four applications were submitted:

1. \$435,620 through UBCM's Strengthening Communities' Services for the Salt Spring Island Homelessness COVID Response project.
2. \$100,000 through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative: Intake 2 to support the Salt Spring Island Centennial Park Plaza project.
3. \$31,309 through Canadian Parks and Recreation Association – Youth Employment Experience for Salt Spring Island Parks Attendant Position.
4. \$500 through Foundations of Youth Grant – Salt Spring Island Foundation to support the Salt Spring Lifeguard School program.

Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program Update

On May 11, 2021, the Province announced the cancellation of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. CARIP is a provincial grant program that provided funding to local governments (including the CRD) that had signed the BC Climate Action Charter. The grant was equal to 100 per cent of the carbon taxes that eligible local governments paid each year. Many local governments, including the CRD, used this funding as a consistent source to fund key climate action activities. The impact of this funding change will be evaluated in the upcoming financial planning process.

Core Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update

The Core Area Wastewater Treatment Plant project is partially funded by the Federal Government, the Province of BC, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund grant/loan program. During the months of April and May, the CRD did not receive any grant payments for this project. The remaining payments remain subject to holdback until the project and reporting are complete. Cumulatively, the CRD has received \$351M of the estimated revised total of \$462M in grant revenues. The remaining (up to) \$111M, plus the \$20M loan is expected to be received in 2021 based on timing of eligible expenditures and achievement of target milestones.

Service Delivery Implications

New Grant Opportunities

Twenty-one new grant calls were issued during the reporting period. Grant Calls in Progress for which the CRD is eligible to apply are featured in Appendix A (see pages 6-7), and in the table below:

Grant	Deadline	Information
Emotive Community Outreach Incentive Program	1. 13-May-21 2. 17-Jun-21	Two streams to support EV outreach: 1. General EV Awareness. 2. Clean Transportation Targets and Planning.
Local Government Partnership Program	19-May-21	Provides funding for agricultural planning tools projects in BC.

Grant	Deadline	Information
National Acadian Day Funding	28-May-21	Provides funding to support 2021 National Acadian Day.
Digital Citizen Contribution Program	28-May-21	Provides funding for research and citizen-focused activities.
Reaching Home-Canada's Homelessness Strategy: Community Capacity and Innovation Funding Stream	11-Jun-21	Provides capacity building funding within homeless serving sector and funding for elimination / prevention of homelessness.
Community Energy Association-Game-Changer Grant	1. EOI due 21-Jun-21 2. Applications due 23-Aug-21	Funding to support climate action projects to help reduce emissions.
Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (Intake 2)	25-Jun-21	Provides funding to create public spaces, improve mobility options, and provide digital solutions.
Women's Employment Readiness Pilot Program	30-Jun-21	Provides funding for test pre-employment and skills development supports for women.
Social Development Partnerships Program-Children and Families	06-Jul-21	Two programs to support well-being: 1. Financial Empowerment of Low-Income People. 2. Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Children and Youth.
Green and Inclusive Community Buildings	1. >\$3M 06-Jul-21 2. <\$3M continuous	1. Provides funding for large retrofit projects or construction of new community buildings. 2. Provides funding for small and medium retrofit projects.
Intersectoral Action Fund	12-Jul-21	Provides funding to social determinants of health and well-being projects.
Enabling Accessibility Fund-Mid-Sized Projects	29-Jul-21	Provides funding for workplace/community projects to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities.
Jumpstart-Sports Relief Fund	01-Aug-21	Provides funding for operational and delivering program support for sport/recreational programming.
Canada Arts Presentation Fund: Professional Arts Festivals and Performing Arts Series Presenters-Programming Stream	01-Oct-21	Provides funding to support existing professional arts festivals/performing art series presenters.
Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Community Buildings Retrofit Initiative	Continuous	Provides funding through four programs to help support GHG reductions: 1. Capital: a) GHG Reduction Pathway Retrofit and b) GHG Impact Retrofit. 2. Community Building Monitoring and Analysis Grant. 3. Study: GHG Reduction Pathway Feasibility. 4. Community Building Recommissioning Grant.
Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program	Continuous	Provides funding to renewable energy and grid modernization projects.

Forthcoming Funding Initiatives

1. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Stream – Ventilation Improvement Funding. Further details to be determined by province.

CONCLUSION

The CRD recognizes grants are a supplementary funding source to address the needs of services provided to the region. The External Grants Update outlines how the CRD continues to integrate and consider these grant opportunities relative to service needs, as well as informing local partners of these opportunities through the grants dashboard. The CRD will continue to provide a summary of activities and outcomes in the External Grants Update on a bi-monthly basis.

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Capital Regional District External Grants Update be received for information.

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Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: External Grants Dashboard