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**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022**

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**SUBJECT**      **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Evacuation Route Planning 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 update existing evacuation route plans for communities with Salt Spring Island (SSI), Juan de Fuca (JdF) and the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI). 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 2022 grant opportunity is available to update the evacuation route plans for communities in CRD EAs. Emergency evacuation route planning would be led by local Emergency Programs with engagement from first responder agencies and community stakeholder groups. The result would be 13 emergency evacuation plans for the communities of:

- Salt Spring Island
- Pender Island
- Mayne Island
- Saturna Island
- Galiano Island
- Piers Island
- Malahat
- Otter Point
- Willis Point
- East Sooke
- Shirley
- Jordan River
- Port Renfrew

The CRD has applied for a grant of \$25,000, the maximum amount. This provides an opportunity for a moderate update of the evacuation plans, including:

- Identification and capacity of available routes
- Methods of evacuation
- Modes of transportation, including active transportation
- Impacts of early warning systems of other emergency notification tools
- Other factors that impact the functionality of evacuation routes

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*

That the Capital Regional District Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Evacuation Route Planning grant and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

### *Alternative 2*

That staff be directed to rescind the application to Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Evacuation Route Planning grant.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Financial Implications*

The grant provides an opportunity for one-time projects that increase community resilience to emergencies. It will not impact annual Emergency Program budgets.

### *Operational Implications*

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, the CRD provides Emergency Management services to residents. Grants provide opportunity for one-time projects that increase emergency program capacity to support residents impacted by a disaster. This grant offers the CRD an important opportunity to build upon previous evacuation route planning and incorporate lessons learned during recent emergencies, such as wildfire, flooding, and winter storms.

## **CONCLUSION**

The CRD supports emergency management programs in Electoral Area communities. The UBCM Evacuation Route Planning grant is a key opportunity to improve emergency evacuation planning for residents and visitors to these areas.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Capital Regional District Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Evacuation Route Planning grant and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, CD, BHSc, MAL, Senior Manager, Protective Services
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