



Memorandum

To: Regional Board

From: Brian Reardon, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: October 13, 2022

Subject: Friends of Fintry - Funding Support Request

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) entered into a partnership with the Province of BC in 1995 that supported the acquisition of properties that now form Fintry Provincial Park. The park was purchased for \$7,680,000 by the province with the Regional District contributing \$2,000,000 of that amount through the RDCO's Regional Parks Service program. The RDCO's 20-year debt servicing commitment associated with its purchase of a portion of what is now Fintry Provincial Park concluded in 2016.

Through a Grant in Aid program request in 2004, the RDCO Board supported the allocation of \$30,000 in funding in support of the Friends of Fintry Provincial Parks Society so that their organization could employ a full-time executive director to aid the Society to work with the Province of BC in securing additional public benefits for the Fintry Provincial Park site. The initial \$30,000 of RDCO financial support increased through subsequent applications to the RDCO Grant-in-Aid program to \$35,000 in 2005, \$37,000 in 2006 and then was increased to \$39,000 in 2008 after the RDCO Board decided to have the annual funding for the Friends of Fintry identified as part of the annual operating expenses for the Regional Park Service program. Friends of Fintry support remained at the \$39,000 annual funding level as part of the RDCO Regional Parks Service program operating expenses until 2020.

The RDCO made a very significant financial contribution of \$2 million dollars to support the acquisition of Fintry Provincial Park and then subsequently invested more than \$500,000 over a 15-year period supporting the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society. As a result of a comprehensive 2019 - 2020 Regional Parks Service Review process, the Regional Board made a decision to refocus tax requisition funds from Central Okanagan residents that had been provided to the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park to better support the various non-profit "Friends of Regional Parks" partner organizations that were linked directly with the RDCO regional parks service program as well as other Board priorities in the RDCO regional parks system which has expanded and now encompasses over 2100 Ha (5000 acres) of parkland throughout the Central Okanagan.

At its regular Board meeting on September 10, 2020, the Regional Board adopted the following resolution:

“THAT the Regional Board approves ending the annual funding of \$39,000 to the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society in 2022;

AND FURTHER THAT the end in funding be phased: \$26,000 in 2021 and \$13,000 in 2022.”

By way of correspondence to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy dated September 17, 2022, the Province and the Friends of Fintry Provincial Parks Society Board of Directors were made aware of the Board’s decision and encouraged BC Parks to work with the Friends of Fintry Provincial Parks Society and provide funding to ensure their work can continue.

By way of correspondence from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy dated December 9, 2020, the Province acknowledged the Regional Board’s decision to end the annual funding to the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society in 2022.

Prepared by: Murray Kopp, Director of Parks Services

Respectfully submitted by:



Brian Reardon, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: 1 - Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society Letter
[Report 2019 Regional Service Review - Item 6.1](#)