



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Protective Services
Date: October 24, 2024

Subject: UBCM-CEPF – 2024 Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training Grant

Voting Entitlement: All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)

Purpose: To request Regional Board approval to apply for a grant under the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for Indigenous Cultural Humility and Cultural Safety.

Executive Summary:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies.

Staff have prepared a regional application to request funding and subsequently pool funds for Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training to further education of Central Okanagan Regional Emergency Management/ Operations Center staff in local syilx Okanagan culture, values, safety, and relationship building.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board approves an application under the Union of BC Municipalities - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for \$237,000 under the Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility Training 2024 stream.

Respectfully submitted by: Brittany Seibert, Regional Emergency Manager

Report Approved by: Mike Walroth, Director of Protective Services

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |
-

Background:

The Central Okanagan Regional Emergency Management Program is committed to fostering meaningful relationships with the syilx/Okanagan people. The syilx/Okanagan people, who have inhabited the Okanagan Valley since time immemorial, maintain a deep connection to the land and its resources. Through the assistance of UBCM's Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility Training funding stream, the program will support the development of cultural competency in emergency management by utilizing local syilx cultural safety and humility knowledge. Training sessions will emphasize the history, values, and unique cultural contexts of syilx/Okanagan communities, directly enhancing staff's ability to provide culturally safe services. Additionally, the relationship-building event fosters meaningful collaboration between non-Indigenous and Indigenous emergency management/EOC staff, reinforcing the program's focus on mutual respect and understanding.

Proposed Project Activities**1. Relationship-Building Event:**

To foster mutual respect and trust between the Central Okanagan Regional Emergency Management Program and syilx/Okanagan communities in an engaging setting. Through shared meals featuring syilx cuisine and team-building activities, participants will have the chance to form personal connections and engage in open discussions. This approach combines cultural learning and engagement activities, creating a strong foundation for ongoing collaboration in emergency management while promoting cultural safety and humility.

2. Development of a syilx Cultural Safety and Humility Training Package:

A comprehensive training package will be created to onboard new emergency management employees and equip them with essential knowledge of syilx culture, values, and history. This package will focus on fostering respectful, culturally aware relationships between Indigenous (specifically syilx) and non-Indigenous staff, ensuring that employees understand the cultural contexts that influence emergency management in syilx communities.

3. Cultural Safety and Humility Training Sessions:

Multiple training sessions will be conducted, emphasizing syilx cultural values and history. These sessions will be designed to deepen emergency management/EOC staff's understanding of cultural humility and encourage culturally sensitive decision-making in emergency response and recovery processes.

Partners

As this is a regional grant request, all Central Okanagan Emergency Management Program partners are included.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

The proposed project will build emergency management capacity to deliver culturally safe emergency management programming representative of the local culture and values of syilx Okanagan communities.

Financial:

Staff is requesting that 100% of the project's costs be covered by this grant.

Considerations not applicable:

- Legal/Statutory Authority
 - Alternate Recommendation
-