



# Regional Board Report

## Request for Decision

**To:** Regional Board  
**From:** Director of Financial Services  
**Date:** May 15, 2025  
**Subject:** Regional Grant in Aid Policy Amendments

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

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**Purpose:** To consider amendments to Board Policy BP7.22 - Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy.

### Executive Summary:

The Regional Grant in Aid Board Policy 7.22 was adopted in October 2013. The policy's purpose is to provide guidelines for allocating grant-in-aid funds to local organizations that offer cultural, charitable, recreational, or service activities that enhance community well-being, promote volunteerism, and support the RDCO's priorities.

At the January 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, the Board passed the following resolution:

***THAT*** the Regional Board directs staff to review the Regional Board Grant in Aid Policy #BP2013 (7.22) and report back to the Regional Board with proposed changes for consideration.

Staff have completed the review, and the proposed changes for the Regional Board's consideration are attached to this report. It is recommended that amendments to the policy be considered to ensure transparency to the public, equity to eligible applicants, fiscal accountability, and alignment with the Regional District of Central Okanagan's (RDCO) priorities.

### Recommendation(s):

**THAT** the Regional Board amend Policy No. 7.22 Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy as outlined in the report from the Director of Financial Services dated May 15, 2025.

**AND THAT** the Regional Board approve the renaming of Policy 7.22 Regional Grant in Aid to BP 22-2025 Grant in Aid.

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Report submitted by: Tania McCabe, CPA, CA, Director of Financial Services

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

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**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness  | <input 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 |
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**Background:**

The Regional Grant in Aid Board Policy 7.22 was adopted in October 2013. The policy's purpose is to provide guidelines for allocating grant-in-aid funds to local organizations that offer cultural, charitable, recreational, or service activities that enhance community well-being, promote volunteerism, and support the RDCO's priorities

In 2016, following a review of the Regional Grant-in-Aid policy, and a Board discussion on the duplication of funding to community groups who were eligible under municipal partner programs, the Regional Board ceased funding for all but two organizations:

- Central Okanagan Community Gardens (COCG) (2025 = \$28,000)
- Okanagan-Similkameen Film Commission (OFC) (2025 = \$140,000)

In 2023, a third recipient was added, The Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society (FOF) in response to a request for financial support (2025 = \$40,000). These three non-profit organizations provide annual financials, in addition to an accounting of their overall annual activities and RDCO funded activities.

At the January 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, the board directed staff to review the Regional Board Grant in Aid Policy 7.22 and report back to the Regional Board with proposed changes for consideration.

Following staff review, it was determined that the existing policy encompasses many of the elements necessary to achieve the objectives of transparency to the public, equity for eligible applicants, fiscal accountability, and alignment with the Regional District of Central Okanagan's (RDCO) priorities. However, it is recommended to enhance the clarity of the policy by including the following:

- A purpose statement outlining the Regional Board's goal of supporting local organizations,
- Definitions of terms used in the policy
- The eligibility criteria to provide improved clarity for organizations on how the Regional Board will assess requests for funding,
- The application process:
  - Deadlines for applications to reflect the different requirements depending on the type of funding requested. This will help organizations understand when they need to submit requests,
  - Clarifying the information that must be included with an application to support the evaluation process.
- Clarify that funding is conditional upon the requirement to enter into an agreement with the RDCO.

These amendments will provide a robust policy that supports fiscal accountability and alignment with the Regional District of Central Okanagan's (RDCO) priorities as well as providing transparency to the public and equity to applicants.

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**Considerations:**

## Financial:

The current 2025-2029 Financial Plan includes regional funding for the three organizations identified in the report (\$208,000). It also includes funding for organizations that qualify and operate within Electoral Area East (\$4,000) and Electoral Area West (\$5,400)

## Considerations not applicable:

Organizational/External:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Alternate Recommendation:

## Attachment(s):

1. BP 7.22 - Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy (redline)
  2. BP 22-2025 RDCO Grant-in-Aid (amended)
  3. Grant in Aid Policy Amendment Presentation
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