



# Regional Board Report

## Request for Decision

**To:** Regional Board  
**From:** Director of Development and Engineering Services  
**Date:** February 19, 2026  
**Subject:** Local Government Development Approvals Grant Program

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

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**Purpose:** To seek Regional Board endorsement for Staff to apply for a grant under the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Local Government Development Approvals Program.

### Executive Summary:

The Province of British Columbia offers grant funding, through the UBCM Local Government Development Approvals Program (LGDAP), aimed at helping local governments modernize and improve their development approvals systems. Eligible projects typically include digital permitting systems, process mapping, policy updates, public-facing improvements, and initiatives that reduce processing times and enhance transparency.

Staff have identified opportunities for RDCO to advance improvements in development approvals, including modernization of internal workflows, enhanced digital tools, and improved coordination with member municipalities and external agencies. A successful LGDAP grant would accelerate these initiatives without requiring unplanned taxation impacts. Board endorsement of the grant application is required as part of the LGDAP submission package.

### Recommendation(s):

**THAT** the Regional Board approves the submission of an application for up to \$200,000 for the Union of BC Municipalities – Local Government Development Approvals Program Activities 2026 Funding Stream.

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Respectfully submitted by: Danielle Noble-Brandt, Director of Development and Engineering 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |
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**Background:**

The RDCO continues to experience consistent development activity in the Electoral Areas, coupled with greater complexity in development applications and rising customer expectations for improved service delivery. Streamlined development approvals processes are essential to delivering consistent, transparent, and efficient service to applicants and the public, alongside various government referrals.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)'s LGDAP funding stream supports initiatives that align strongly with RDCO's strategic direction, including enhancements proposed within Development & Engineering Services. Potential project elements may include:

- Modernization of digital permitting and tracking systems, including online e-permitting submissions.
- End-to-end process review and mapping
- Updates to development procedures, checklists, and templates
- Improved coordination and communication tools for applicants
- Enhancements to public-facing information and application guidance

The program is competitive and requires a Regional Board resolution confirming support for the application and commitment to managing the grant-funded project. A maximum of \$200,000 funding is available through the program. Eligible activities can include the training and hiring of temporary staff.

RDCO has recently retained a consultant to implement a new development services software system, furthering the objectives of modernization and digitization within the development application process. The project scope encompasses the key functional domains of business licensing, building permits and inspections, and planning applications. The software implementation is structured as a three-year initiative, segmented into three sequential phases, each dedicated to one functional area with targeted completion by the end of 2028.

Pending approval of funding, staff will incorporate this additional work into the ongoing software system implementation project, which is already scheduled to address business licensing, building inspections, and planning approval workflows.

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**Considerations:****Organizational/External:**

The project is designed to enhance cross-departmental collaboration within the RDCO and facilitate improved engagement with the public and applicants. The proposed software system upgrade represents a significant multi-year undertaking that will require substantial staff time and focus. This grant has the potential to support the successful outcomes of the initiative while helping to alleviate the associated resource demands.

**Financial:**

LGDAP typically funds eligible activities at 100%, with no matching contribution required. Staff time to manage the project would be accommodated within existing resources or supported by the grant depending on eligibility. There are no anticipated budgetary impacts at the application stage.

**Considerations not applicable:**

- Alternate Recommendation
- Legal/Statutory Authority