



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: November 29, 2019

SUBJECT: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Evacuation Route Planning

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208.1

Purpose: To seek grant funding from the Union of BC Municipalities - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to develop Evacuation Route Plans for parts of the Central Okanagan that are challenged with higher threat levels.

Executive Summary:

The Province of British Columbia has made funding available through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments. Applications are being accepted under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for those projects that will support eligible applicants in developing Evacuation Route Plans for communities that would otherwise be challenged to successfully undertake an evacuation operation during an emergency.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is requesting support for a grant application for Evacuation Route Planning. Efficient and safe evacuation routes are needed for the movement of people, livestock, animals and personal property from an area of imminent or actual threat to an area of safety. A requirement in the application package is a Board resolution supporting this application. Accordingly, this matter is now before the Board for its consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board supports submitting a grant application under the Union of BC Municipalities – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Evacuation Route Planning.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Cashin".

Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

Approved for Board's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Priorities: Support sustainable communities by ensuring healthy, high quality of life for our residents.

Safe Communities: The RDCO will continue to work to protect communities from harm through the highly recognized Regional Emergency Management Program in collaboration with the member municipalities and Westbank First Nation.

Legal/Statutory Authority: Through the Emergency Program Act, the Province of BC requires all local authorities to be prepared for emergency situations, including response and recovery.

Background:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

There are seven different funding streams available:

- Indigenous cultural safety and cultural humility training;
- Emergency operations centres and training;
- Emergency support services;
- Evacuation route planning;
- Flood risk assessment, flood mapping and flood mitigation planning;
- Structural flood mitigation; and
- Volunteer and composite fire departments equipment and training.

The Regional District has been fortunate to receive CEPF grants in the past for EOC Upgrades, ESS Equipment and Floodplain Mapping. This application focuses on evacuation route planning.

The maximum grant available is \$25,000 however funding requests from two or more eligible applicants for regional projects may be submitted as a single application for eligible, collaborative projects. In this case, the maximum funding available would be based on the number of eligible applicants included in the application. It is expected that regional projects will demonstrate cost-efficiencies in the total grant request.

The intent of this funding stream is to build the resiliency of evacuations. The grant funding would result in the completion of an Evacuation Route Plan which identifies and addresses existing challenges to successfully implement an evacuation in the event of an emergency, such as:

- Identification and capacity of available routes;
- Methods of evacuation;
- Modes of transportation;
- Anticipated speed of progression of local hazards (e.g. wildfire, flood, etc.);
- Availability of early warning systems or other emergency notification tools; and
- Other factors that impact the functionality of evacuation routes.

The grant funding would allow the completion of an Evacuation Route Plan and may include preparation of maps, exercises required to inform or test the Evacuation Route Plan and amendments to relevant local plans, bylaws or policies that are specific to evacuation route planning (e.g. OCP, rural land use plans, engineering and public works bylaws or policies).

The deadline for the submission of the grant application is April 17th, 2020 and applicants will be advised of the status of their application within 90 days of the application deadline.

Financial Considerations:

Annual operation and maintenance costs are not covered by the CEPF grant.

Alternative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board accepts the report regarding the UBCM – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for information.