



# Regional Board Report

**TO:** Regional Board

**FROM:** David Komaike  
Director of Engineering

**DATE:** February 18, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Emergency Social Services  
(2020 Application)

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

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**Purpose:** To request Regional Board support for a UBCM – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Application.

## Executive Summary:

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund offers grants to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to and recovering from emergencies.

Staff is requesting support for a grant application under the Emergency Support Services (ESS) stream of funding. The funds, if granted, will provide the ESS volunteers with further training and equipment to enhance communication and modernize processes.

A Regional Board resolution supporting this grant application is required as part of the grant application package. Accordingly, this matter is now before the Regional Board for consideration and approval.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** the Regional Board supports submitting a \$25,000 grant application under the Union of BC Municipalities – CEPF for the region's Emergency Support Services program.

Respectfully Submitted:

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David Komaike  
Director of Engineering

Approved for Board's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian Reardon, CAO

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### Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Supports the Sustainable Communities Strategic Priority. “The RDCO will continue work to protect communities from harm through the highly-recognized Regional Emergency Management Program in collaboration with the member municipalities and Westbank First Nation”.
Financial:	Initial purchase, if granted, will have no impact on the taxpayer. On-going maintenance and renewal costs will apply to all assets purchased, and are not covered under this grant.
Legal/Statutory Authority:	‘Under the Emergency Program Act, municipalities and regional districts are responsible for responding to emergencies in their areas, including coordinating emergency support services.’ <sup>1</sup>

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### Background:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), supports local governments with grant opportunities for disaster response and recovery. The intent of the CEPF is ‘to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies.’<sup>2</sup>

This application, if endorsed, will be made under the CEPF Emergency Support Services (ESS) stream. Local ESS team members plan and coordinate emergency activities including:

- Identifying locations for reception centres and group lodging;
- Finding other volunteers;
- Working with local businesses, service organizations and government agencies;
- Housing and feeding people forced from their homes; and
- Supporting other emergency responders

Each year about 5,000 British Columbians volunteer as ESS workers.<sup>1</sup>

This application for CEPF funding supports the modernization of local ESS activities through technology and training. The team wishes to purchase and participate in the following:

Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 laptop computers</li><li>• 1 HUB (WIFI access)</li><li>• 1 wireless printer</li></ul>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indigenous cultural awareness</li><li>• Mental Health First Aid</li><li>• First Aid</li><li>• Food Safe</li></ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Emergency Support Services (ESS). Government of British Columbia. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/volunteers/emergency-support-services> (accessed February 18, 2020)

<sup>2</sup> Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Emergency Social Services. Union of BC Municipalities. <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-emergency-preparedness-fund/emergency-support-services.html> (accessed February 14, 2020)

All equipment and training requested will contribute to ESS activities, including: initiation, planning, execution, monitoring, and the eventual closure of each emergency event.

**Organizational Considerations:**

Past requests for CEPF funding were successful and helped to attain equipment, including: cots, a trailer, blankets, and IT equipment.

**Financial Considerations:**

Asset maintenance and renewal expenses are not covered by the CEPF grant.

**External Implications:**

Operation of the EOC is jointly funded by member communities.

**Alternative Recommendation:**

That the Regional Board receive the Community Emergency Preparedness Funding applications for information.