



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: October 8, 2020

SUBJECT: Vancouver Foundation Systems Change Test Grant

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

Purpose: To endorse, by resolution, one Systems Change Test Grant application prior to consideration by the Vancouver Foundation.

Executive Summary:

The Vancouver Foundation, through their Systems Change Grants, provide funding to charities and other qualified recipients who are taking actions to address the root causes of pressing social, environmental, or cultural issues in British Columbia. These grants support communities and populations as a whole and contribute to meaningful and lasting change.

The RDCO was successful in receiving \$20,000 from the Vancouver Foundation to proceed with the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning Initiative in 2020. The next stage in the process is to apply for multi-year funding through a Test Grant which will assist the project team in testing their influence on systems and to learn what leads to change.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approves submitting an application to the Vancouver Foundation Systems Change Test Grant Program, in collaboration with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and Okanagan Nation Alliance, for the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning Initiative for Water Source Protection.

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 "M. Rilko".

Marilyn Rilko, Deputy CAO

Prepared by: Brittany Lange, Environmental Planner

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Endorsement of the grant application for consideration by the Vancouver Foundation achieves the Regional Board's Strategic Priorities 2019-2022 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Values: Collaboration, Regional Perspective, and Resiliency.• Priorities: Environment.
Policy:	Endorsement of the grant application for consideration by the Vancouver Foundation meets several of the goals and objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336.

Background:

The Vancouver Foundation was established in 1943 and works to bring together donors, non-profits and charities, government, media and academic institutions, local leaders, and passionate individuals to build meaningful and lasting change in the province of BC¹. Each year, the Foundation funds hundreds of projects in the areas of social services, culture and arts, health, reconciliation, education, and environment, among others.

The Vancouver Foundation Systems Change Grants Program is intended to encourage work being done that benefits communities and populations as a whole and that contribute to meaningful and lasting change. Featured projects include the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative's "Community Planning for the Peace Region's Murray River Watershed" and the Canadian Society Promoting Environmental Conservation project to address "Climate Adaptation for Small-Scale Farmers" in the Metro Vancouver area.

The Vancouver Foundation will review the projects based on set criteria to determine eligibility for funding. The intent of obtaining a local government resolution prior to consideration is to ensure that the proposed project is consistent with water management objectives and reflects community values of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Proposal:

There are three types of grants available, depending on the stage of the project:

1. Development Grant: To generate ideas and initial project planning. Up to \$20,000 is available for up to 1 year and no matching funds are required.
2. Test Grant: To test the influence of a systems change project. Up to \$100,000 per year is available for up to 3 years and requires 25% matching funding from other sources.
3. Scale Grant: To extend the influence of an existing systems change project. Up to \$100,000 per year is available for up to 3 years and requires 50% matching funding from other sources.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan was successful in receiving \$20,000 in 2020 for the Development Grant application to proceed with the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning Initiative. The next step in the process is to apply for a test grant. Test grants are multi-year grants to help project teams test their influence on systems and to learn what leads to change.

Test grants are a two-stage application. Applicants begin their application by completing the first stage of questions, and if successful, are then invited to complete the remaining questions.

¹ Vancouver Foundation. (2020). About Us. Retrieved from <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/our-work/about-us>

RDCO Community Services staff provides administrative assistance by collating any applications that have requested local government support. One application for a Test Grant has requested Regional Board endorsement, summarized in Table 1 (attached), and is consistent with water-related objectives and community values as outlined in the Regional Growth Strategy.

Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336

Endorsement of the grant application for consideration by the Vancouver Foundation meets complies with the following policies of the RGS:

Our Water

- Continue in partnership with the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and regional partners to encourage valley wide cooperation and coordination regarding the conservation of water and protection of all water sources.
- Consider water resources in land use planning decisions.

Our Economy

- Support effectively managing and protecting the integrity of the Region's critical assets such as the lakes, natural environment, and agricultural lands that promote attraction of employment and investment.

Our Ecosystems

- Encourage collaboration to adopt consistent terminology, policies and actions that support the protection and conservation of environmental features and watersheds within the Region.
- Manage growth to minimize disturbance to habitat, watershed, and natural drainage areas and systems.
- Explore funding mechanisms to support regionally significant natural areas, open space and parkland acquisitions.
- Support cooperation with regional partners on environmental matters, particularly where there are developments/issues located adjacent to political boundaries.

Financial Considerations:

Grants available for individual projects range from \$10,000.00 to \$100,000.00. In 2019, a total of \$5.4 million was approved by the Vancouver Foundation for Systems Change Projects².

In 2020, the RDCO was successful in receiving \$20,000.00 from the Vancouver Foundation Development Grant program.

Alternative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board not endorse the application to the Vancouver Foundation Systems Change Test Grant Program for the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning Initiative.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *General*

² Vancouver Foundation. (2020). Systems Change Grant Program Injects \$5.4 Million into BC Communities Retrieved from <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/whats-new/systems-change-grant-program-injects-54-million-bc-communities>

- *External*
- *Legal/Statutory Authority*
- *Organizational Issues*

Attachment:

- Table 1: Central Okanagan Applications for the Vancouver Foundation Systems Change Grant