



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: David Komaïke
Director of Engineering

DATE: February 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Emergency Social Services
(2021 Application)

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

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 education in the areas of indigenous awareness, first aid (CPR and AED), and mental health first aid.

A Regional Board resolution supporting this grant application is required as part of the 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

David Komaïke
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 circular stamp.

Brian Reardon, CAO

Prepared by: Mimi Miller, Asset Management Analyst

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.
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.’ ¹

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.’²

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 approximately 5,000 British Columbians volunteer as ESS workers.¹ Continual and enhanced training and education opportunities support ESS team members in meeting the needs of local communities during an emergency event. The team wishes to participate in the following:

- Indigenous cultural awareness education
- Mental Health First Aid education, and
- First Aid Training (CPR & AED)

Organizational Considerations:

Past requests for CEPF funding were successful and helped in attaining cots, a trailer, blankets, and IT equipment required for emergency events.

The training and education requested with this application was, initially, part of the 2020 ESS grant application. As a result of the pandemic, in-person training could not take place in 2020. Instead, staff has initiated an amendment request with UBCM to amend last year’s application budget with the intent of moving the training expenses to 2021 and using the 2020 grant funding for the renewal of ESS equipment.

¹ 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)

² *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)

Financial Considerations:

Asset maintenance 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 application for information.