



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: May 13, 2021

SUBJECT: BC Healthy Communities – PlanH Program Public Health Policy Grant

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

Purpose: To request Board support for a BC Healthy Communities - PlanH Public Health Policy Grant application.

Executive Summary:

BC Healthy Communities (BCHC) has made funding available through the PlanH program for the development of healthy public policy. The program seeks to create policy that improves the equity of its community members. Staff is preparing an application to request \$15,000 in funding to complete a Regional Agricultural Strategy.

A Board resolution supporting RDCO's grant application is required as part of the application. Accordingly, this matter is now before the Board for its consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approves submitting a grant application under the BC Healthy Communities – PlanH program to complete a Regional Agricultural Strategy.

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

Prepared by: Michael Czarny, Planner

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Supporting the grant application achieves the Regional Board Strategic Priorities 2019-2022 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Values: Relationships, Collaboration, Regional Perspective, Transparency, Resiliency and Good Governance
Financial:	Request funding of \$15,000 for the Regional Agricultural Strategy
Policy:	Supporting the grant application complies with the Regional Growth Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Food• Our Economy• Our Health

Background:BC Healthy Communities:

BC Healthy Communities (BCHC) is a non-profit team of planners, public health specialists and community engagement practitioners that operate at the intersection of planning and public health. At the intersection of these disciplines is a fundamental commitment to equity; to ensure that systematic disadvantages do not get in the way of community members' aspirations for their lives and the lives of their families. BCHC works with communities by distributing grant funding, providing resources and program-funded supports, and working directly with and for communities through partnership and fee-for-service relationships.

PlanH:

Implemented by BC Healthy Communities (BCHC), PlanH facilitates local government learning, partnership development and planning for healthier communities where we live, learn, work and play. The PlanH program supports local government engagement and partnerships across sectors for creating healthier communities. Recognizing that community policy, plans, and decisions affect health and well-being, PlanH provides learning opportunities, resources, and leading-edge practices for collaborative local action.

Healthy Public Policy

The Healthy Public Policy stream offers grants and support from BCHC staff for projects that seek to develop new policy in order to improve the health and well-being of community members. Healthy public policies can take many forms across a community. They can improve the conditions under which people live by setting strategic priorities for housing, education, food security, child care and transportation services. In creating, adopting and evaluating a public policy through a health equity lens, Indigenous and local governments can create long-term positive impacts for community members.

Regional Agricultural Strategy:

The Regional Agricultural Strategy was identified as priority project no. 8 under the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Priority Projects Plan. The strategy's purpose is to support knowledge sharing, data collection, joint investments, and developing regionally consistent policies to help a number of aspects of the larger agricultural food system. It would support related regional initiatives and could coordinate implementation of actions embedded in local level agricultural plans including the District of Lake Country's Agricultural Plan adopted in 2020, City of Kelowna's Agricultural Plan adopted in 2017 and the City of West Kelowna's Agricultural Plan adopted in 2011 and 2016.

Should the funding application be approved, the Regional Agricultural Strategy may include the following components:

a) Phase 1: Research and data collection

- Analysing trends in the agricultural economy, including size, diversity and composition
- Compiling a regional inventory of agricultural land, including an identification of land actively farmed, or under pressure from development
- Identification of regionally common issues and challenges

b) Phase 2: Identify regional issues, goals and actions

- Establishing regional agricultural and food system goals
- An assessment of existing resources and supports
- Exploration and identification of regional level actions that support the established goals

c) Phase 3: Implementation and Communications Planning

- Collaboration and continuing to build partnerships with key agencies such as the Agricultural Land Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, and the BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative
- Developing a communications plan to work closely with farming communities to build resilience and increase the capacity of farmers to adapt to change
- Development of an implementation plan to carry out established recommendations by identifying areas of activity and roles of the stakeholders

Policy Considerations:

Regional Board Strategic Priorities 2019-2022

The Regional Board has identified the values of Relationships, Collaboration, Regional Perspective, Transparency, Resiliency and Good Governance that shall be implemented through regional plans and strategies.

Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw No. 1336

The proposal is supported by the RGS as it relates to future planning to ensure the viability and protection of agricultural land and agricultural uses. Further, Central Okanagan regional partners have agreed to:

- Policy 3.2.5.1 “Encourage cooperation with regional partners, provincial ministries and stakeholders that consider a regional agricultural strategy to identify issues and the present and future needs of the agricultural sector that will contribute to the well being of all residents to guide food security, economic opportunity and the protection of agricultural land”
- Policy 3.2.2.2 “Encourage and support related economic development initiatives that address the needs and challenges in the Region”
- Policy 3.2.2.9 “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”
- Policy 3.2.4.6 “Encourage cooperation with Interior Health to explore opportunities to develop healthy community strategies”
- Policy 3.2.4.8 “Incorporating health and principles of a Healthy Built Environment into the development of comprehensive plans”

Regional Growth Strategy Priority Projects Plan

The proposal is identified as project no. 8 in the RGS Priority Projects Plan.

#	Project	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Regional Flood Management Plan: Phases 2 and 3					
2	Regional Planning Lab					
3	Regional Housing Needs Assessment					
4	Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Program					
5	Regional Citizen Survey					
6	Regional Housing Strategy					
7	Regional Growth Strategy Five-year Review					
8	Regional Agricultural Strategy					
9	Regional Employment Lands Inventory					

Financial Considerations:

The anticipated total budget for this project is \$95,000. The Healthy Public Policy grant through BC Healthy Communities can contribute a maximum of \$15,000 for the cost for eligible activities. The Local Government Partnership Program funding through Investment Agriculture Foundation can contribute a maximum of 50% of the cost eligible activities to a suggested maximum of \$40,000. Should both the funding applications be successful, the RDCO will be expected to contribute \$40,000 towards the Regional Agricultural Strategy. An amendment to the 2021 Budget may be required.

Organizational Issues:

Should the funding request be approved, RDCO will be responsible for completion of the project by September 31, 2022 and for meeting reporting requirements.

Alternative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board accepts the report regarding BC Healthy Communities – PlanH program to complete a Regional Agricultural Strategy for information.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *Legal / Statutory Authority*
- *External Implications*

Attachment(s):

- n/a