

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING March 20, 2019

AUTHORED BY JOHN HORN, SOCIAL PLANNER

SUBJECT COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM FUNDING EXTENSION

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain direction from the Finance and Audit Committee regarding receipt of additional funding from the BC Overdose Emergency Response Centre for Nanaimo's Community Action Team to support Indigenous community members.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the provision of additional funding from the Overdose Emergency Response Centre for Nanaimo's Community Action Team to support Indigenous community members.

BACKGROUND

In May of 2018, the Community Action Initiative, in partnership with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the BC Overdose Emergency Response Centre, made funding available to Community Action Teams across BC to *"help communities develop partnerships to provide focused, action-oriented strategies tailored to local community needs that will support addressing the overdose crisis"*.

In July of 2018, Nanaimo's Community Action Team received a grant of \$100,000. The City of Nanaimo agreed to act as the financial agent for this funding and entered into a contribution agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association. The Canadian Mental Health Association is the body that the Community Action Initiative works through to disperse grant funds to Community Action Teams.

Recently, the BC Overdose Emergency Response Centre has been in dialogue with the First Nations Health Authority. One outcome of that dialogue is that the BC Overdose Emergency Response Centre is offering to increase the amount of funding provided to each Community Action Team by approximately \$8,000. This funding will be used to support an enhanced response to the needs of individuals of Indigenous ancestry affected by this overdose crisis.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the provision of additional funding from the BC Overdose Emergency Response Centre for Nanaimo's Community Action Team to support Indigenous community members.
 - **Budget Implication:** The final 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan will be amended to increase the budget for the Community Action Team Grant from \$100,000 to \$108,000 with funding from the BC Overdose Emergency Response Centre.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Addresses Social Equity
2. That Council provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- In 2018, Nanaimo's Community Action Team received \$100,000 to address the overdose crisis in our community.
- The City of Nanaimo is acting as the financial agent for the Community Action Team in terms of receiving and dispersing those dollars.
- An additional \$8,000 is being made available by the BC Overdose Emergency Response Centre to support an enhanced response to the overdose crisis focused on Indigenous community members.

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

Dale Lindsay
Director, Community Development

Laura Mercer
Acting Director, Financial Services