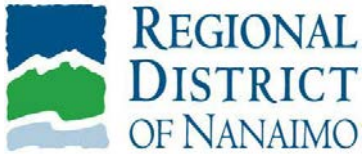


ATTACHMENT A



January 20, 2020

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning
City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

Re: Regional Grant Application for Social Needs Assessment and Strategy

Dear Lisa:

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is preparing a grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program for a Social Needs Assessment and Strategy. I am writing to ask that the City of Nanaimo consider partnering with the RDN enabling the project scope to be expanded to increase the regional benefit.

The RDN is eligible to receive up to \$25,000 as a single applicant, and a regional application is eligible for up to \$150,000. Each partnering local government adds \$25,000 to the total grant amount. The three other municipalities within the RDN and the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee have been sent this same request.

The UBCM requires a Council resolution to formalize the partnership for the purpose of the grant application and a sample resolution, from the grant program guide, is provided below:

That the City of Nanaimo supports the Regional District of Nanaimo as primary applicant to the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning & Action grant program for a Social Needs Assessment and Strategy and supports the Regional District of Nanaimo to receive and manage the grant funding on its behalf.

The RDN Board will consider the RDN role as lead applicant at the January 28th Board meeting. Due to the grant application deadline of February 28, 2020, we are requesting that member local governments in the RDN consider partnering in a regional application concurrent with the Board's consideration.

The Social Needs Assessment and Strategy is envisioned to address social needs throughout the region, including electoral areas and municipalities, and be organized in two phases: phase 1 is an assessment of the current situation, and; phase 2 is development of a strategy to address gaps identified in phase 1. By making a regional grant application, the strategy in phase 2 would be expanded to identify not only the RDN role but also the role of partnering municipalities and the Islands Trust.

The Social Needs Assessment and Strategy is broader than a “poverty reduction plan” as named in UBCM grant application guide, because the aim is to improve the well-being of all citizens, not only those living in poverty or at risk of poverty. The project proposal meets the requirements of the grant program through its focus on social supports and a range of age groups and family types, which are two of the six focus areas eligible for the grant.

The RDN has a \$60,000 project budget for consulting fees and public engagement for a comprehensive social needs assessment. An additional \$150,000 of grant funding would add to the depth and breadth of public engagement and expand the strategy’s focus to a more comprehensive regional and member local government review. Please note that a regional application may proceed with one or more partners; not all member local governments are required to join the partnership for a regional application to be submitted.

If successful in receiving the grant, a regional partnership would include: staff from the partnering local governments reviewing request for proposals for consulting services; providing comments on draft reports, and; additional involvement throughout the project if desired.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Simpson', written in a cursive style.

Courtney Simpson
Senior Planner

T: 250-390-6563 | Email: csimpson@rdn.bc.ca

cc. Kim Fowler, Manager Long Range Planning and Energy and Sustainability
Geoff Garbutt, General Manager of Strategic and Community Development