

DATE OF MEETING June 20, 2022

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SUBJECT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND APPLICATION

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain a Council resolution supporting an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the “Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning” funding stream.

Recommendation

That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning stream, and that Council commits to Staff providing overall grant management.

BACKGROUND

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is of a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations, and communities in British Columbia. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

The Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning funding stream supports eligible applicants to ensure they have accurate knowledge of the risks associated with extreme heat and how these risks will change over time, and to develop effective response plans and strategies to prepare, mitigate, and adapt to those risks. One or more of the following components may be developed through this funding stream:

- Extreme Heat Risk Mapping
- Risk Assessments
- Planning – Extreme Heat Response Plans
- Planning – Extreme Heat Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Planning

All local governments and all First Nations are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants may submit one application per intake. Projects must be new, or in a subsequent phase of an existing extreme heat risk reduction-related project, capable of completion by the applicant within one year from the date of grant approval, and able to show that extreme heat risk assessments and disaster risk reduction-climate adaptation planning will consider climate change. The program can contribute 100% of the cost of eligible activities, to a maximum of \$30,000. Any other funding of eligible projects must be declared, and may decrease the value of the funding.

The grant application deadline is **2022-JUN-24**. Funding announcements will be announced within 90 days of the application deadline. The City of Nanaimo, pending Council's approval, intends to submit an application for an extreme heat risk mapping project to be carried out in 2022-2023. |

DISCUSSION

The City of Nanaimo developed a *Climate Change Resilience Strategy* in 2020. The Strategy includes a priority action to develop an Extreme Heat Response Strategy. Staff in Planning and Emergency Management have been leading and collaborating on this work.

The BC Coroners Service report *Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021*, released on 2022-JUN-07, found that more than 80 per cent of those who died were on three or more chronic-disease registries; 67 percent were aged 70 or older; and those with mental-health or substance-use disorders were at higher risk for death. Almost all deaths (98 per cent) occurred indoors, and 56 per cent of those who died lived alone.

The funding would allow for mapping populations disproportionately at risk of extreme heat, and reviewing appropriate adaptive responses. This would include using the most recent findings from the Coroner's report to provide valuable insight and accurate knowledge specific to Nanaimo in order to refine the development of effective response plans. This project will complement and strengthen the ongoing work on the City's Extreme Heat Response Strategy development.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Extreme heat risk mapping is not currently in the 2022-2026 Financial Plan. Estimated costs of this project are \$30,000.

The 2022-2026 Financial Plan would be amended to include extreme heat risk mapping contingent on a successful grant application. The proposed grant application would apply for funding of 100% of the project budget. |

OPTIONS

1. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning stream and that Council commits to Staff providing overall grant management.
 - The advantages of this option: Mapping extreme heat risk as soon as possible would improve the effectiveness of the heat response plans and ensure the City is better prepared to mitigate those risks before another extreme heat event occurs.
 - Financial Implications: Extreme heat risk mapping is not currently funded in the 2022-2026 Financial Plan. If the grant application is successful, the project would be 100% funded by the CEPF Fund program, and the 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan would be amended to include the project.
2. That Council provide alternative direction to Staff. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The CEPF Fund's Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning stream provides 100% funding up to \$30,000 for eligible project costs.
- If successful, the funding will support an extreme heat risk mapping project to strengthen the City's Extreme Heat Response Strategy.
- The City may submit one application for this funding.
- Applications are due by 2022-JUN-24.

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