

DATE OF MEETING July 4, 2022

AUTHORED BY CHRISTY WOOD, SOCIAL PLANNER  
DEANNA WALKER, FINANCIAL ANALYST

SUBJECT **BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND**

## OVERVIEW

### **Purpose of Report**

To seek Council endorsement to accept the Building Safer Communities Fund allotted to the City of Nanaimo to address gun and gang violence.

### **Recommendation**

That Council accept the funds from the Building Safer Communities Fund to address gun and gang violence, endorse Staff to use year one funds to build a 3 year strategic plan with pilot programs, and commit to Staff providing overall grant management.

## BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Public Safety Canada announced in March 2022 new Federal funding to address community safety through the \$250 million Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF). The objective of the fund is to help municipalities and Indigenous communities prevent gun and gang violence by addressing the root causes. Communities across Canada were identified to receive the funding by Public Safety Canada using a Crime Severity Index (CSI) analysis on firearms related to homicides, as well as Uniformed Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) analysis on firearm related offences and organized/street level offences. Nanaimo's allocation for BSCF is \$1,853,316.98, over a four-year fiscal period to address gun and gang violence in Nanaimo.

## DISCUSSION

The BSCF funding is allocated over a four year fiscal period and allows municipalities or First Nations the ability to develop and implement a strategic plan to address gun and gang violence in the local context. The funding is distributed on a yearly basis, and the table below outlines the disbursements that can be allocated to the City of Nanaimo for each fiscal year. Public Safety Canada will not allow a carry-forward provision, each allotment must be spent during its designated fiscal year.

### **Building Safer Community Funds Allocated to City of Nanaimo**

Year One, Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 (April 1 to March 31)	\$ 185,331.70
Year Two, Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 (April 1 to March 31)	\$ 648,660.94
Year Three, Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 (April 1 to March 31)	\$ 648,660.94
Year Four, Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 (April 1 to March 31)	\$ 370,663.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,853,316.98</b>

In order to release the funds, Public Safety Canada requires municipalities to provide a submission form that includes demonstrated need; a work plan that highlights the activities and outcomes that will combat gun and gang violence; and a budget detailing how the funds will be used.

Public Safety Canada has recommended that the City submit a one year submission form, with a one year work plan and budget to facilitate and contribute to the development of a strategic plan for the subsequent years.

The following activities are eligible under the BSCF funding:

- Development of a strategy on gun and gang violence;
- Development and delivery of prevention, intervention initiatives addressing risk factors associated with gun and gang violence, including but not limited to mentoring, counselling, skills development, and recreational opportunities;
- Development or enhancement of data systems to support data gathering/reporting on gun and gang crime or on results achieved;
- Development of knowledge to fill gaps at the community/recipient level, including research and sharing of information and/or best practices related to gun and gang violence;
- Outreach and recruitment of preventative initiatives or intervention participants;
- Public awareness and education;
- Collaboration and integration of horizontal initiatives related to gun and gang violence;
- Development of a plan to sustain successful preventative initiatives or intervention activities beyond the end of the contribution agreement; and,
- Any other prevention and intervention initiatives as developed in consultation with the program authority.

If directed by Council to accept this funding, Staff will seek an appropriately qualified consultant to engage with and partner with Snuneymuxw First Nation, RCMP, and local non-profit agencies to develop a three year strategic plan. Through the City’s current membership with the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention, the City may join other municipalities who received BSCF across Canada to form a Community of Practice to share best practices, evidence and approaches to gun and gang violence.

The following table outlines the tasks and timeline estimated for the year one funds:

<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<b>TASKS</b>
July 2022	Secure Year One Funding	Submit submission form, one year work plan, and budget to Public Safety Canada.
July 2022	Develop Request for Proposal	Develop scope of services and agreement for services for year one funds to retain a qualified consultant to create a 3 year strategic plan with pilot programs.
July 2022	Secure Qualified Consultant	Recruit qualified consultant.

August – November 2022	Develop 3 year Strategic Plan with Pilot Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection and consultation with RCMP, Snuneymuxw First Nation, non-profit agencies, identifying demonstrated need and high risk populations.</li> <li>• Research evidence based and targeted prevention, and intervention activities appropriate for the local context.</li> <li>• Develop a 3 year strategic plan.</li> <li>• Develop pilot programs.</li> </ul>
November – December 2022	Stakeholder Review	Present draft 3 year strategic plan to City Staff, Snuneymuxw, RCMP, and non-profit agencies to receive feedback and incorporate input accordingly.
December 2022 – January 2023	Present 3 Year Strategic Plan to Council for Endorsement	Present 3 year strategic plan to Council for endorsement.  <i>*note Public Safety Canada requires the completion of the 3 year strategic plan for approval by January 2023 in order to release the funds for Year Two.</i>
September 2022 – March 2023	Pilot Program(s) Implementation	Tasks may include hiring program coordinator(s), program development (including the creation of program and communication materials), booking events, etc.  <i>*pilot programs can run until the end of the fiscal year (2023-MAR-31) and be carried into Year Two funding if approved in the 3 year strategic plan submission to Public Safety Canada.</i>

## **OPTIONS**

1. That Council accept the funds from the Building Safer Communities Fund to address gun and gang violence, endorse Staff to use year one funds to build a 3 year comprehensive strategic plan with pilot programs, and commit to Staff providing overall grant management.

- The advantages of this option: The BSCF can support the City to work proactively and strategically to address gun and gang violence in Nanaimo. This funding can be used to support projects that proactively work on “upstream” resilience building activities with youth at risk.
- The disadvantages of this option: Staff time will be used towards overall grant management.
- Financial Implications: This project is not currently included in the 2022-2026 Financial Plan. If funding is accepted, the project would be 100% funded by the BSCF and the 2022-2026 Financial Plan would be amended to include the project.

2. That Council not accept the funds from the Building Safer Communities Fund.

- The advantages of this option: Staff time will not be used towards overall grant management.
- The disadvantages of this option: The issue of gun and gang violence may not be proactively or strategically addressed city wide.
- Financial Implications: None identified.

3. That Council provide alternative direction to Staff.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The City has been awarded \$1,853,316.98 by Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund to address gun and gang violence in Nanaimo over a four year period.
- It is recommended to use year one funds to build a strategic plan with pilot programs to address gun and gang violence.

#### **Submitted by:**

Lisa Brinkman  
Manager, Community Planning

#### **Concurrence by:**

Lisa Bhopalsingh  
Director, Community Development

Laura Mercer  
Director, Finance

Supt. Lisa Fletcher  
Officer in Charge, Nanaimo RCMP

Dale Lindsay  
General Manager, Development Services  
/Deputy CAO