

DATE OF MEETING | MARCH 15, 2023

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SUBJECT | **UBCM DISASTER RISK REDUCTION-CLIMATE ADAPTATION FUND**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Council with information on the UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Fund and obtain a Council resolution to support the application submitted for a Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Mapping project under this program stream. |

### **Recommendation**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend Council approves the submission of the joint application with Snuneymuxw First Nation to the UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Fund Category 1 stream for a Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Mapping project, and that Council commits to City staff providing overall grant management.

## **BACKGROUND**

The UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) Fund is a funding stream designed to support eligible applicants in reducing risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks through the development and implementation of accurate foundational knowledge of the natural hazards they face, the risks associated with BC's changing climate and effective strategies to prepare for, mitigate, and adapt to those risks. This is the second intake for the DRR-CA Fund. The program is intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies.

The DRR-CA funding is divided into three categories:

- Category 1 - Foundational Activities (risk mapping, risk assessments, planning) - \$150,000 maximum funding available per eligible participant
- Category 2 – Non-Structural Activities (land use planning, community education, purchase of eligible equipment) - \$150,000 maximum funding available per eligible participant
- Category 3 – Small Scale Structural Activities - \$2 M maximum funding available.

The DRR-CA funding stream can contribute 100% of the cost of eligible activities, up to the maximums indicated in each category. All three categories can be included in the one application allowed for each intake, however, grants may be awarded for individual categories, based on the merit of the proposed project in each category. All other contributions for eligible portions of the project must be declared and may decrease the value of the funding from UBCM. Only new projects are eligible under this program, and the projects must be capable of completion by the applicant within two years from the date of grant approval.

Funding requests from two or more eligible applicants for regional projects may be submitted as a single application for eligible, collaborative projects. In this case, the maximum funding available would be based on the number of eligible applicants included in the application. Regional approaches to DRR-CA are strongly encouraged and higher application review scores will be given to regional projects.

The grant application deadline was **2023-FEB-24**. Funding announcements are expected by 2023-JUN-24. ]

## **DISCUSSION**

Renewing the Hazard Risk and Vulnerability (HRVA) and adding risk mapping are foundational parts of the emergency program. These tools will provide accurate direction to determine planning priorities to reduce risk and mitigate hazards.

The current HRVA for the City of Nanaimo (the City) was last conducted in 2014 and in the interceding time our experience and knowledge of hazards has changed significantly. Accurate emergency planning cannot take place without first understanding what to plan and prepare for. Priority 1 within the United Nation's Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (adopted by the government of British Columbia in 2018) is Understanding Risk. This project is a direct realization of this priority because HRVAs measure the social, economic, and environmental impacts that disasters will have on a community by measuring risk. This process includes identifying hazards, (both climate-driven natural and human caused), cascading or compounding events, social and infrastructure vulnerabilities, risk tolerance and the overall risk profile for a community.

As a community active with the process of national reconciliation with First Nations, the City engaged with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) to discuss the need for an up to date HRVA and risk mapping of both the City and SFN lands, and to inquire about building a mutually beneficial partnership within this project. Preliminary meetings have been held with the SFN Emergency Manager and verbal agreement to proceed with this project in partnership has been granted. We now await a Band Council Resolution to officially confirm this.

Partnership discussions were also held with the Regional District of Nanaimo but there was a timing conflict whereby they are already applying for their own project within this grant and are therefore precluded from partnering with us on this.

Given the application deadline and the preliminary partnership agreement with the SFN, the City has taken the lead and submitted a single, joint funding request for a collaborative HRVA and Risk Mapping project for the City and SFN. This will maximize the available funding, which is based on the number of eligible applicants, and demonstrate cost-efficiencies in the total grant request. ]

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HVRA)**

This project is not included in the approved 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan and is contingent on a successful grant application. If funding is successful, the 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan would be amended to include the project funded 100% by a \$300,000 DRR-CA grant. |

### **OPTIONS**

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend Council approves the submission of the joint application with Snuneymuxw First Nation to the UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction Climate Adaptation Fund Category 1 stream for a Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Mapping project, and that Council commits to City staff providing overall grant management.
  - The advantages of this option: The City's HRVA was last done in 2014 and requires renewal. In addition, the regional approach provided by collaborating with SFN allows for the addition of a risk mapping tool to supplement the new HRVA.
  - Financial Implications: This project is not included in the approved 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan, and is contingent on a successful grant application.
2. That Council request staff to withdraw the application submitted 2023-FEB-24.

### **3. SUMMARY POINTS**

- The UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction Climate Adaptation Fund provides up to 100% funding to a maximum of \$150,000 per eligible participant for eligible project costs
- The City may submit one application for this intake.
- An applications was submitted 2023-FEB-24 for the HRVA and risk mapping project.

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