

DATE OF MEETING MARCH 15, 2023

AUTHORED BY LAURA MERCER, DIRECTOR, FINANCE

SUBJECT GROWING COMMUNITIES FUND

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Finance and Audit Committee with information pertaining to the Growing Communities Fund.

BACKGROUND

On 2023-FEB-10, the Province announced the BC building stronger communities with \$1-billion Growing Communities Fund (GCF) (Attachment A). This fund was created to provide a one-time total of \$1 billion in direct grants to all 188 municipalities and regional districts in BC. The GCF will help local governments to prioritize local infrastructure and amenity projects, including supporting affordable housing, upgrading water management facilities and building recreation centres. Local governments can use the grant to address each community's unique infrastructure and amenity demands.

DISCUSSION

On 2023-MAR-03, the Province announced the funding amounts allocated to each local government. 85% of the total funds were allocated to municipalities and the remaining 15% went to regional districts. The payments were calculated as follows:

- \$500,000 flat amount per municipality or district, plus
- An adjusted population funding amount, plus
 - Adjusted population multiplied by approx. \$365.
- A growth-based funding amount, where applicable.
 - Total population increase between 2016-2021 per BC Stats multiplied by \$1,000.

Based on this formula, the City of Nanaimo was granted \$16,088,000 under the GCF. A listing of the payments to all local governments is outlined in Attachment B.

All local governments are required to report on the use of the GCF in their annual audited financial statements. In the coming weeks, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will provide further guidance to municipalities and regional districts on how they can use their funds.

NEXT STEPS

Once details are released on the allowable expenditures under the GCF, staff will return with a report outlining recommendations on funding allocations for consideration. Any preliminary guidance or direction that the Finance and Audit Committee provides will also be included in the report.

SUMMARY POINTS

- On 2023-FEB-10, the Province announced the BC building stronger communities with \$1-billion Growing Communities Fund.
- On 2023-MAR-03, the City of Nanaimo received notice that the City would be issued a one-time grant of \$16,088,000 under this fund.
- Allowable uses of the GCF grant will be outlined by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in the coming weeks.
- Staff will return to Council with a list of possible options on how to spend the GCF grant

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2023-FEB-10 Ministry of Municipal Affairs GCF Announcement

Attachment B: Breakdown of Funding By Local Government

Attachment C: Detailed Calculation Method for the GCF

Submitted by:

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