

DATE OF MEETING | APRIL 17, 2024 |

AUTHORED BY | JANE RUSHTON, MANAGER, SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT |

SUBJECT | **BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIAL PROCUREMENT INITIATIVE (BCSPI)
2024 ANNUAL REVIEW**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with an update on the status of the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative's (BCSPI) request for Provincial funding and seek direction on membership renewal.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee receive an update on the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative and determine whether or not to recommend to Council to renew the City's membership for 2024.

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (BCSPI) formerly known as Coastal Communities Social Procurement Initiative (CCSPI) is a public sector initiative led by and for local governments that fosters positive social, environmental, cultural and economic impact across British Columbia. BCSPI supports local governments and institutions to build capacity through training, consulting, resources, and support to implement purchasing that achieves community goals. The City joined the BCSPI in 2019, actively participating in the quarterly meetings and leveraging the training when onboarding new procurement staff.

In 2021, BCSPI received a one-time, 3-year funding injection from the Province to expand its membership across the province. This funding covered 65% of BCSPI's operating budget. At the 2023-OCT-18 Finance and Audit Committee meeting the Committee recommended that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, sign the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative letter to be sent to the Province in support of continued grant funding.

Since 2020, the City is also a member of the Canadian Collaboration of Sustainable Procurement (CCSP). This is a national organization based out of Vancouver that provides training, support, and collaboration events on all pillars of the City's Sustainable Procurement Policy. The membership includes eight peer exchange webinars, a working group that advances a jointly selected topic, contract directory, resource library as well as the annual benchmark report that the City's uses to gauge our advancement.

DISCUSSION

The City has been advised that despite best-efforts the BCSPI has been unable to secure ongoing funding support from the Province. As a result, BCSPI will transition into a fee-for-service model as of 2024-APR-01, where the initiative is supported solely by annual membership fees with

services administered by BCSPi service delivery partner Buy Social Canada. This change will result in fees increasing by 20% for 2024. Membership fees are based on population and in 2019, the City's annual membership fee was \$7,956. and has incrementally grown to \$10,581 in 2023. Based on population growth and taking into consideration the 20% increase in fees, the 2024 invoice is estimated to be \$13,000.

The CCSP's membership started at \$2,000 annually and recently increased to \$2,205 in 2024.

CONCLUSION

Sustainable procurement is an evolving discipline that requires participants to stay involved and up to date on emerging philosophies and trends. Organizations such as the BCSPI and CCSP provide necessary support and allow the City to learn and adopt practical methods from experts and peers.

The CCSP membership to date has proven to be good value for the funds invested. The BCSPi membership has not provided additional benefits reflective of the higher cost. The funds currently allocated to the BCSPi could be invested in other training opportunities to enhance the City's sustainable procurement policy.

OPTIONS

That the Finance and Audit Committee receive an update on the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative and determine whether or not to recommend to Council to renew the City's membership for 2024.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City has been an active participating member of British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (BCSPI) since 2019.
- BCSPi provides training to Procurement staff.
- The 2024 membership fee for the BCSPi will increase by 20% for 2024.

ATTACHMENTS:

BCSPI Co-Chair Update – March 2024

Submitted by:

Jane Rushton
Manager, Supply Chain Management

Concurrence by:

Wendy Fulla
Director, Finance

Laura Mercer
General Manager, Corporate Services