



# BOARD REPORT

**TO:**

Chair and Directors

**File No:** 1855 03**SUBJECT:**

Community Resiliency Investment Grant

**DESCRIPTION:**

Report from Derek Sutherland, Team Leader Protective Services, dated November 2, 2018. Update on new provincial grants to provide funds to mitigate forest fuels on crown lands surrounding communities.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:**

THAT: the CSR D Board adopt a resolution of support for the new Community Resiliency Investment Grant program provisions that provide opportunities to not-for-profit groups, provincial governments and provincial government contractors to access funding and manage treatment programs on provincial land.

**SHORT SUMMARY:**

The long standing Strategic Wildfire Prevention (SWP) grant has been revamped following the Abbott/Chapman report on the 2017 wildfires. The new program is called the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) grant and includes changes that incorporated input provided by stakeholders from across BC. Staff have reviewed the CRI grant criteria as it compares to the SWP grant and has determined that the CPI grant remains heavily focused on providing funding to local governments interested in completing crown land forest fuel mitigation around communities. A positive change to the grant is that not-for-profit groups, provincial governments and provincial government contractors can now access the funding and manage treatment programs on provincial land. The current application deadline for the CRI grant is December 7, 2018.

**VOTING:**Unweighted  
CorporateLGA Part 14  
(Unweighted)Weighted  
CorporateStakeholder  
(Weighted)**BACKGROUND:**

In 2018 the long standing Strategic Wildfire Prevention grant program was revamped to encompass some of the changes suggested by various stakeholders outlined in the Abbott/Chapman report *"Addressing the New Normal: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disaster Management in British Columbia"*. The new CRI grant includes many of the features of the SWP, such as fuel mitigation on crown land, but includes added components to address mitigation on private land, as well as the development of FireSmart programs.

The CRI is operated jointly through UBCM and the Forest Enhancement Society (FES). The CRI has \$20 million dollars in funding available for crown land mitigations and FireSmart initiatives at the community level. Funding for the crown land treatments is prioritized and unlimited; funding for private land mitigation projects (FireSmart) is limited to \$100,000. FireSmart initiatives will be funded with remaining funds after treatments programs are funded. Applications for crown land treatment projects are administered directly through FES, and FireSmart initiatives are administered through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The most significant improvement to the new CRI grant is the addition of eligible applicants including not-for-profit groups, provincial governments, and provincial government contractors. This improvement allows for special interest groups and provincial government departments to access the funding and manage treatment programs on provincial land.

In 2012, the Board decided against pursuing the SWP grant because it required the local government to manage wildfire mitigation on provincial land surrounding communities. The program was heavily dependent on local governments providing fuel reduction strategies and treatments on crown land. This was viewed by the Board as an attempt by the Province to download provincial responsibility onto local governments. As an alternative, the Board elected to focus efforts and resources on building a structure protection program. To date, three Structure Protection Units (SPU's) have been purchased and equipped to address the protection of homes and structures within the forest interface areas during wildfire emergencies. The SPU's have been deployed throughout British Columbia and have saved countless structures and received revenue in excess of \$750,000 in deployment reimbursements.

The new FireSmart element of the CRI grant could have some merit for application, although the CRI criteria indicates that in order to apply for the CRI grant, the local government must have completed a comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that would identify the wildfire risks of each affected community and examine the ways to which the wildfire risks could be reduced. The CSRD has not engaged in the development of CWPP's for its numerous communities.

**POLICY:**

There is no policy restricting the CSRD to assume provincial responsibilities with respect to managing forest fuels on crown land. The CSRD does not have the means to utilize taxes to fund the program costs or to fund the staff time and resources involved in this comprehensive program.

**FINANCIAL:**

The CRI grant provides a one-time 100% program funding for eligible costs and activities.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

Local non-profit groups interested and eligible for the receipt of grant funds may submit a grant request to the CRI and receive funds to provide forest fuel mitigation on provincial crown land within the CSRD.

**BOARD'S OPTIONS:**

1. *Endorse the Recommendation.*
2. *Deny the Recommendation.*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

**LIST NAME OF REPORT(S) / DOCUMENT(S) AVAILABLE FROM STAFF:**

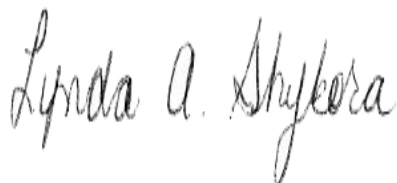
**Report Approval Details**

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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



**Darcy Mooney - Nov 2, 2018 - 3:44 PM**



**Lynda Shykora - Nov 5, 2018 - 10:35 AM**



**Charles Hamilton - Nov 5, 2018 - 11:45 AM**