



BOARD REPORT

TO:

Chair and Directors

File No: 1855 03

SUBJECT:

Community Resiliency Investment Program

DESCRIPTION:

Report from Derek Sutherland, Team Leader, Protective Services, dated November 20, 2018. Update on new provincial grant to provide funds to mitigate forest fuels on Crown lands surrounding communities.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

THAT: the Board adopt a resolution of support for the new Community Resiliency Investment program grant 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, this 7th day of December, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

THAT: the Board support an application to the Community Resiliency Investment Program for a FireSmart Community Funding & Supports Program grant for the development and implementation of localized FireSmart educational activities and tools up to a maximum amount of \$100,000.

AND THAT: the Board support the provision of in-house contributions to support overall grant and project management, this 7th day of December, 2018.

SHORT SUMMARY:

At the regular Board meeting held on November 15, 2018, CSR D staff presented an overview of the Provincial Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program grant. Staff reviewed the CRI program grant criteria as it compares to the previous Strategic Wildfire Prevention (SWP) grant and updated the Board that the CRI program grant remains heavily focused on providing funding to local governments interested in completing land forest fuel mitigation on crown land around communities.

Staff understood that the grant criteria and eligibility was that in addition to local governments, not-for-profit groups, provincial governments and provincial government contractors can now access the funding and manage treatment programs on provincial land. Additionally, the development of FireSmart plans and programs were added to the eligibility requirements of the grant. The current application deadline for the CRI program grant is December 7, 2018.

The November 15, 2018 staff recommendation and Board Report was deferred to the December Board meeting and staff was directed to provide additional information to the Board regarding the opportunity to apply for a grant related to the development of a FireSmart Program.

Through additional investigation and discussions with provincial agencies and UBCM, staff now have a clearer understanding that Fuel Mitigation grants are available to local authorities, provincial governments, provincial government contractors, and conservation groups (not-for-profit), of which Regional Districts are limited to fuel mitigation grant applications in regional or provincial (Crown) parks. FireSmart grants are available only to local governments and First Nations. Eligible projects related to the FireSmart program grant can be applied for, up to a maximum of \$100,000. UBCM additionally provided clarification that local governments could apply for a FireSmart grant without having completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Staff has determined that the development and implementation of localized FireSmart educational activities would add significant value to the Emergency Management programs and is in a position to forward an application to UBCM before the grant deadline, upon receipt of Board support.

VOTING:	Unweighted Corporate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LGA Part 14 (Unweighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weighted Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder (Weighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia"*. The new CRI program 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 program 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 UBCM.

The most significant improvement to the new CRI program 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.

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

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

Board support to apply for a CRI FireSmart program grant.

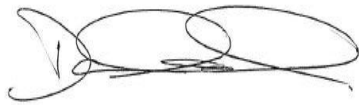
BOARD'S OPTIONS:

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

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Community Resiliency Investment Grant Dec 2018.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 26, 2018

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



Darcy Mooney - Nov 23, 2018 - 2:17 PM



Jodi Pierce - Nov 23, 2018 - 3:10 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Lynda Shykora was completed by assistant Jennifer Sham

Lynda Shykora - Nov 26, 2018 - 3:14 PM



Charles Hamilton - Nov 26, 2018 - 3:21 PM