

Director Rhona Martin  
Electoral Area E  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District

June 21, 2022

Economic Opportunity Fund Request on behalf of the Malakwa Community Learning Centre, which is under the umbrella of the Malakwa Community Centre Association.

To Chair and Board of Directors CSRD  
Mayor and Council, District of Sicamous

As you may be aware the ongoing operating expense for the former Malakwa Elementary School building has been funded from a grant from the Sicamous and Area E Economic Opportunity Fund for the past five years.

This building has always been a key gathering place in the community but since the closure of the school by SD #83 and the failure of the Malakwa Community Hall, the use of the building has grown. Several organizations are located within the building including:

- The Malakwa Post Office
- The Eagle Valley Community Support Society has an office in the building that also provides the Food Bank Service as well as the other services they offer
- the community library is located in the building
- And the facility has become the gathering place for celebrations of life for those in the community who have passed on, for family reunions and weddings as well as community meetings.

Additionally, Brad Payne Manager of IT/GIS at the CSRD outfitted one of the classrooms with computers and a server which provided the opportunity for Okanagan College and their partners to offer adult skills upgrading. The students enrolled in these courses were from throughout the area. This is an opportunity that has the ability to be repeated.

The Malakwa Post Office and the Eagle Valley Community Support Society pay a rental fee and there has been (pre-covid) rental earned from some community functions.

In the Lease Agreement with SD#83 the Malakwa Community Learning Centre is required to pay for insurance, hydro, propane, monies transferred into SD#83 reserve accounts to pay for replacement of both the HVAC and the roof, as well as systems checks, and/or monthly inspections. This required funding amount varies annually depending on things such as snow fall and the roof needing to be shovelled or a problem with the pump. The year end Triple Net Cost reconciliation for 2021 was \$53,518.00 compared to \$69,095.00 for 2020.

I am requesting a five year funding commitment of \$65,000.00 per year for a total amount of \$325,000.00 from the Sicamous and Area E Economic Opportunity Fund to align with the terms of the lease.

Jodi Pierce, the Manager, Financial Services of the CSRD has confirmed that this use of funding is consistent with policy because of the demonstrable and enduring benefit to the economy of the community.

I am hopeful that you will support this request in order to keep this key infrastructure available to the public.

Respectfully

Rhona Martin.