



# City of Revelstoke

## Council Report

File No.: 4710-01

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**To:** His Worship Mayor Sulz and Members of City Council  
**From:** Evan Parliament, Interim Director of Community Economic Development  
Cat Moffat, Economic Development Coordinator  
**Date:** April 23, 2024  
**Subject:** Request for Economic Opportunity Funds (EOF) to support project initiatives  
in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** a recommendation be made to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board (CSRD) to allocate \$100,000 to Recreational groups to maintain and expand trail networks, backcountry amenities, and water access.
2. **THAT** a recommendation be made to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board (CSRD) to allocate \$30,000 to the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce to expand the Revelstoke Ambassador Program to all sectors and create additional workforce development training opportunities.

### **Background:**

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District Policy F-29 ([Linked Attachment 1](#)) outlines the apportionment of the BC Hydro Grants in lieu of taxes (Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILT)). A History of EOF funding for Community Economic Development ([Linked Attachment 2](#)) provides an overview of the Economic Opportunity Fund (EOF) and how it supports the work of Community Economic Development for the City of Revelstoke and the CSRD Area B.

The Economic Opportunity Funds (EOF) “were created specifically as a means of compensating for the loss of economic opportunities on those lands affected by the dams and reservoirs and the resultant economic impacts to the affected communities.” As tourism grows to replace traditional sectors of the economy, we have been able to leverage funds resulting from this growth to offset costs to taxpayers, and are able to strategically direct non-taxpayer funds including EOF to respond to the above needs, support more sustainable growth, and ensure that benefits of project activity are distributed regionally to further the objective of providing economic opportunities as envisioned by the Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILT). The funds allocated to activities and projects in Revelstoke and the CSRD Area B over the past seven years are attached ([Linked Attachment 3](#))



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### **Discussion:**

#### *Backcountry Access:*

The on-going transition of Revelstoke to a year-round destination providing high quality recreation and athletic opportunities for residents and visitors, has changed how people access and use recreation amenities, trail networks, and surrounding lands. The economic growth of the recreation and tourism sectors in Revelstoke has been impacted not only by market forces, but by visitors and residents in multiple ways including:

- Demand for high-quality outdoor recreation venues for training and competition.
- Need for fully accessible amenities to serve a broader, more diverse community.
- Support key objectives including formation of a Trail Alliance and the development of a Backcountry Recreation Access Plan, in line with the implementation of the Destination Management Plan.

Four non-profit recreation groups have been recommended to submit applications to the EOF for the following:

- \$30,000 to the Revelstoke Cycling Association to support on-going trail maintenance of recreation cycling trails and amenities.
- \$30,000 to the Alpine Club of Canada Columbia Mountains Division to support on-going trail maintenance of recreation hiking trails and amenities.
- \$30,000 to the Climber's Access Society to support on-going maintenance of recreation climbing routes and amenities. *Waiting to hear back.*
- \$10,000 to the Paddlesport Association. *Waiting to hear back.*

#### *Workforce Development:*

To support Community Economic Development with the Official Community Plan objectives of Workforce Development and Tourism/Recreation Development. Workforce recruitment and retention has been identified as a key challenge for Resort Municipalities. The Revelstoke Ambassador Program is also supported with RMI funds as the original focus was on tourism-based businesses. The expansion of the Revelstoke Ambassador Program will extend to non-tourism industries and include a series of new training and workshop opportunities and is now offered for December-April, and May-September.

Allocate \$30,000 to the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce to expand the Revelstoke Ambassador Program.



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### **Financial / Risk Implications:**

The EOF funds are external to the City of Revelstoke taxation budget. Staff are requesting that Council support the request from the EOF for these activities and projects.

The investment of EOF funds will better enable the City and CSRD Area B to leverage existing funds derived from taxation, the Resort Municipality Initiative funding, and Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) funds.

### **Others Consulted:**

Revelstoke and Area B Economic Development Commission  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Area B Director David Brooks-Hill  
Director of Finance

### **Attachments/ Links:**

Linked Attachment 1 - [CSRD Policy F-29](#)

Linked Attachment 2 - [History of EOF funding for Community Economic Development](#)

Linked Attachment 3 - [EOF Allocations 2019-2023](#)

Linked Attachment 4 – [EOF Revelstoke Cycling Association Application](#)

Linked Attachment 5 - [EOF Alpine Club of Canada, Columbia Mountains Division Application](#)

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Cat Moffat**  
Economic Development Coordinator

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**Evan Parliament**  
Chief Administrative Officer