



# City of Revelstoke

## Council Report

File No.: 4710-01

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**To:** His Worship Gary Sulz and Members of City Council  
**From:** Ryan Watmough, Director of Community Economic Development;  
Cat Moffat, Economic Development Coordinator  
**Date:** October 8, 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 \$25,000 economic and environmental indicator data, analysis and strategy.
2. **THAT** a recommendation be made to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board (CSRD) to allocate \$12,500 to support the Government of BC's Rural Economic Development & Infrastructure Program (REDIP) grant for investment attraction that includes a land use Feasibility Study for the Westside Lands, which are subject to Section 17 of the BC Land Act;

### **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](#)) for the City of Revelstoke and the CSRD Area B.

Some of the requests presented for funding include:

- 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 Shuttle Services
- Outdoor Recreational Groups – transition to a year-round destination providing high quality recreation
  - Revelstoke Cycling Association
  - Alpine Club of Canada – Columbia Mountains Section
  - Illecillewaet Greenbelt Society
  - Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club
- Tech Strategy 2.0 and 3.0



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- Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce – Ambassador Program
- Forestry Sector Transition Planning
- Cultural Planning Process

The Economic Opportunity Funds “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,” and through recommendations provided by the City of Revelstoke (CoR) Community Economic Development (CED). 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 PILT. The funds allocated to activities and projects in Revelstoke and the CSRD Area B over the past eight years are attached (Appendix A).

### **Discussion:**

CED proposes funding allocations from the EOF for the following key areas:

#### **1) Economic and environmental indicator data, analysis and strategy**

The scope of this initiative includes gathering and analyzing key economic and environmental indicators, such as local employment rates, business growth trends, air and water quality metrics, and energy consumption. We anticipate engaging one or more specialized data collection agencies to ensure that the data is accurate, comprehensive, and reflective of current realities. Additionally, the funding will support strategic analysis to identify actionable insights, align city goals with sustainable development, and improve both short-term and long-term planning.

This investment in data-driven decision-making will equip local stakeholders, the City and CSRD with the tools necessary to address complex challenges and capitalize on opportunities, fostering a resilient and prosperous community. This initiative aligns with the OCP action item in section 3.3.1 action item (1): Collect, share, and mentor local business and economic data to enhance understanding of trends, indicators, track progress on key indicators, and better inform policy and investment decisions. Share business intelligence and best practices with the community through effective use of communications tools, where appropriate.



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### 2) Government of BC's REDIP supported Feasibility Study for the Westside Lands and investment attraction project

CED staff and members of the Revelstoke Area Economic Development Commission have identified the priority to understand the economic opportunities for Section 17 lands, this activity is supported in the OCP (section 4.5.14 action item (2)). This activity will support the broad objectives of workforce development, business retention and expansion, economic diversification, and investor readiness. The Rural Economic Development & Infrastructure Program (REDIP) funding would provide up to 80% or \$100,000 in funding. Additional funding of 20% is required to secure the grant application. The City would provide \$12,500 and EOF would provide \$12,500. REDIP would possibly then be used to leverage 50% matching funds towards a CanExport Community Initiatives grant, maximizing between \$200,000 and \$250,000 for land use feasibility studies and investment attraction.

These requests are deemed eligible for EOF funding by CSRD staff and have the approval of the Director for CSRD Area B.

CED has reviewed activities to be in alignment with Official Community Plan and recommends the activities to Council for their approval.

#### **Financial 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, the MRDT funds, and other grant opportunities.

#### **Others Consulted:**

Director of Columbia Shuswap Regional District Area B, David Brooks-Hill  
City Management Team  
The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation  
BC Hydro

#### **Attachments:**

Linked Attachment 1 - Columbia Shuswap Regional District Policy F-29  
Linked Attachment 2 – History of EOF Funding for Community Economic Development  
Appendix A: EOF Allocations and Proposed Allocations 2017–2024



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Watmough", is positioned in the middle left of the page.

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**Ryan Watmough**  
Director of Community Economic Development

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**Evan Parliament**  
Chief Administrative Officer