



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

STAFF REPORT

To: Council

File No.: 7320-20

From: Kurt MacDonald, Fire Chief

Date: June 14 2023

Subject: 2023 Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant program and seek a resolution approving the application for the Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning grant, in partnership with the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and K'ómoks First Nation (KFN).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies through funding provided by the Province of BC and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). This report seeks a resolution from Council to submit a joint grant funding application for 2023 Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning grant with the CVRD, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and KFN. The 2023 application will include a plan to:

- Develop regional evacuation response and efficient evacuation routes
- Create public notifications and emergency alerting systems messaging to deliver critical, lifesaving information to the public.

The partnership between the City of Courtenay, CVRD, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and KFN looks to maximize the available grant funds to further these objectives without recommending a service establishment and an ongoing commitment of community resources.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies through funding provided by the Province of BC and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The intent of this funding program is to support the identification of evacuation routes and the development of messaging to deliver critical, lifesaving information to the public in the event of an emergency.

DISCUSSION:

With Council support, staff will work with the CVRD, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and KFN on a regional application that could result in up to \$150,000 in funding (\$30,000 per applicant). This funding will be used to promote a valley wide approach to the advanced planning of the evacuation routes and consistent messaging for the public in the event of an emergency.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Emergency Program Act is scheduled to be replaced by the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) in the fall of 2023. This new legislation will address new standards and best practices such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We anticipate that this new legislation will provide benchmarking for evacuation route planning and public communications, and this grant funding will help us achieve those goals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The grant funding request will be for \$30,000 per applicant.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

We focus on organizational and governance excellence

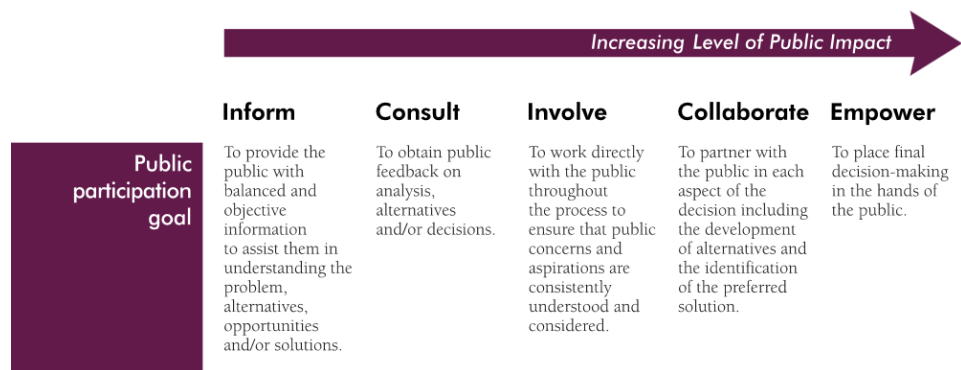
●▲ Value community safety and support our protective services

We continually invest in our key relationships

▲■ Advocate and cooperate with local and senior governments on regional issues affecting our community.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff would inform the public based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:



OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: THAT based on the June 14, 2023 staff report “2023 Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning”, Council approves OPTION 1 and authorize an application made to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2023 Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning) for \$30,000 to be used in 2023-2024 to support the regional application by the Comox Valley Regional District (primary applicant); AND FURTHER, THAT as a joint applicant, Council agrees that the primary applicant will apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf, if successful in grant funding.

OPTION 2: THAT Council refer back to staff for further review.

Prepared by: Kurt MacDonald, ECFO, Fire Chief

Concurrence: Geoff Garbutt, M.P.I., MCIP, RPP, City Manager (CAO)