



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

STAFF REPORT

To: Council

File No.: 7320-20

From: Kurt MacDonald, Fire Chief

Date: November 22 2023

Subject: 2023 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant

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 regional application for the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation grant, in partnership with K'ómoks First Nation, and to delegate authority to the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Courtenay, to approve a formal Municipal Service Agreement with K'ómoks First Nation for the provision of emergency planning and disaster reduction measures.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to support First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Funding is 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 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant with K'ómoks First Nation. The 2023 application will include a plan to:

- Purchase temporary flood mitigation equipment including additional lengths of flood barriers, anchoring systems, fill attachments and valves.
- Provide training on the deployment and maintenance of the product.
- Development of operational guidelines for deployment of flood barriers and equipment regionally.

This report also seeks Council approval to create a Municipal Service Agreement between the City of Courtenay and K'ómoks First Nation. The partnership between the City of Courtenay and K'ómoks First Nation looks to protect critical infrastructure and mitigate response costs to the Comox Valley regional partners and EMCR for flood response during atmospheric river events.

BACKGROUND:

Many communities across the province have experienced serious economic loss, social disruption, and damage to important infrastructure from natural hazards and climate-related disasters. Investing in disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities will help reduce these impacts in the future.

Natural hazards can include earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, drought, heatwaves, debris flows, and landslides. Some hazards are slow in their onset (e.g., changes in temperature and precipitation leading to ecosystem impacts), while others happen more suddenly (e.g., earthquakes, floods, heat waves). Climate change

2023 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant

increases the likelihood of weather-driven natural hazards occurring (e.g., debris flows, drought, wildfire), the severity of disasters, and the occurrence of cascading events.

The intent of this funding is to support eligible applicants to reduce disaster risks from natural hazards and climate-related events through building partnerships within the community and supporting long-term disaster risk reduction planning.

DISCUSSION:

With Council support, staff will work with K'ómoks First Nation on a regional application that could result in up to \$300,000 in funding to purchase flood barriers and associated flood mitigation equipment. A successful grant application would result in the City of Courtenay obtaining 650 additional feet of flood barriers and equipment, and K'ómoks First Nation receiving enough flood barriers and equipment to protect their infrastructure as well. This joint initiative supports disaster risk reduction, aligns with the principles of mutual aid in Emergency Management, and the collaborative and cooperative approaches championed by the Sendai Framework.

Included with the purchase of the flood barriers and equipment, professionals with technical knowledge and experience will provide training on how to deploy, maintain, and remove the equipment to City of Courtenay staff, K'ómoks First Nation maintenance team members, local emergency managers and Mainroad North Island Contracting staff.

A Municipal Service Agreement between the City of Courtenay and K'ómoks First Nation will provide both governments an opportunity to share knowledge and resources, as well as develop a plan to mitigate the damage caused by overland flooding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The purchase of the flood barriers and equipment have been added to the 2024 Financial Plan. There will be no impact on taxation as 100% of costs are covered by the grant.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

As the primary applicant, the City of Courtenay will apply for, receive, and administer the grant.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:**We focus on organizational and governance excellence**

●▲ Value community safety and support our protective services

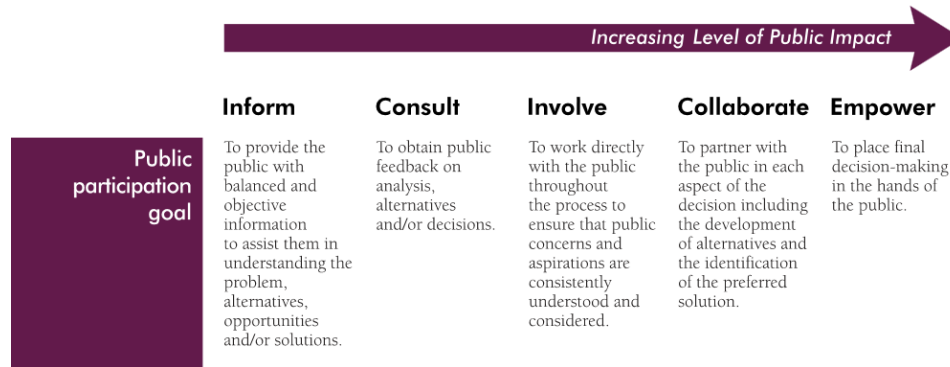
We continually invest in our key relationships

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

2023 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

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



© International Association for Public Participation www.iap2.org

OPTIONS:

1. THAT Council approve an application the 2023 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation fund to be submitted jointly on behalf of the City of Courtenay and K'ómoks First Nation; and, THAT Council delegate authority to the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Courtenay, to approve a formal Municipal Service Agreement with K'ómoks First Nation for the provision of emergency planning and disaster reduction measures.
2. THAT Council refer back to staff for further review.

Prepared by: Kurt MacDonald, ECFO, Fire Chief

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