



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

# Staff Report

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**To:** Council

**File No.:** 7320-20

**From:** Kurt MacDonald, Fire Chief

**Date:** December 11 2024

**Subject:** 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant

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## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution approving the regional application for the 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation grant.

## **BACKGROUND:**

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 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant with K'ómoks First Nation, Comox Valley Regional District, Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland. The 2024 application will include a plan develop public messaging for extreme weather events, host community education/awareness workshops focused on regional community-level disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, and acquire portable, temporary mitigation equipment such as:

- Portable air scrubber equipment
- Misting/water bottle fill stations
- Tiger dams

## **DISCUSSION:**

This temporary mitigation equipment supports further development of multijurisdictional operational planning and response strategies for flood, extreme heat, and poor air quality. The proposed funding will support development of key messaging and the purchase of equipment to temporarily protect people, settlements, sensitive landscapes and waterways in the Comox Valley.

- Five portable misting stations that can be temporarily and securely located in high traffic areas and outdoor recreation sites, in conjunction with regional emergency cooling service initiatives.
- Two deployable portable air scrubber equipment for public facilities to offer clean air spaces; this includes designated emergency-use facilities activated through the Emergency Operations Centre.
- Additional temporary flood equipment (Tiger Dams) to be staged in the Village of Cumberland for localized flood response capabilities, while growing the regional response and mutual aid capacity. Tiger Dam purchase includes staff training on deployment, removal and maintenance techniques which will be extended to regional partners with similar assets.

**2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant**

- Development of regional community education and engagement materials with regional partners exploring extreme weather impacts and place-based resilience in a changing landscape.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The grant funding request will be \$100,000

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:**

None

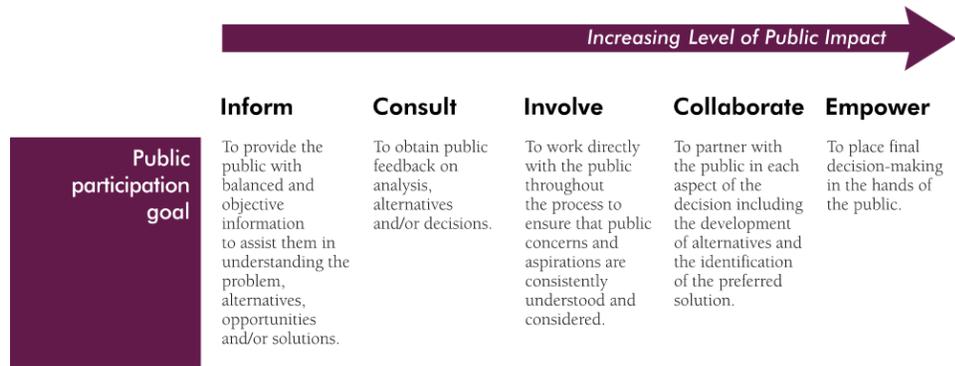
**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:**

This initiative addresses the following strategic priorities:

- Public Safety - Build capacity for emergency planning and local response

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

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



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**OPTIONS:**

1. THAT based on the December 11 2024 staff report “2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant”, Council approves OPTION 1 and authorize an application made to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Category 2 for up to \$100,000 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.
2. THAT Council provide alternative direction to staff.

Prepared by: Kurt MacDonald, ECFO, Fire Chief

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