

# Report

Date

September 21, 2022

File:

Subject

Climate Adaptation Assessment Grant Application Approval

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## PURPOSE

To obtain support for a grant application to the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Program (DRR-CA) administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

## BACKGROUND

The Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Program (the Program) administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) provides grants of up to \$150,000 to support activities that advance a local government's climate adaptation planning.

A requirement of the grant application includes a current Council resolution indicating support for the proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.

## DISCUSSION

Council's Strategic Plan (2019-2022) outlines the priority to "develop a comprehensive climate change risk and vulnerability assessment". The intent of the assessment is to take a holistic approach to evaluating the community's vulnerabilities to natural hazards (flooding, extreme heat, etc.) associated with climate change and to develop strategies to proactively mitigate the impacts of these events. This project will build off the regional work recently completed by Cowichan Valley Regional District and develop strategies specific to our community context.

Note: This project is already approved in 2022 through the Municipality's Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve Fund. However, the UBCM DRR-CA Program provides 100% of the costs towards foundational climate adaptation activities, including risk assessments and planning. Therefore, the DRR-CA can be leveraged to offset the allocation from the Reserve Fund and enable the Reserve Fund to be applied to additional projects.

## OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council support the submission of a grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for up to \$150,000 under the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation funding stream for the development of a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for the Municipality of North Cowichan and support overall grant management of the project.
  - This option allows for the funded budget from the Municipality's Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve to be freed up and reallocated to recommendations identified through the Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment project. Should the grant application be unsuccessful, sufficient funds are in the 2022 budget to ensure the project will still move forward.

- The deadline to apply under the first intake is September 30, 2022.
2. THAT Council suggest an alternate project to include in an application to the Program.
- This option allows Council to suggest an alternative project to be submitted in the next intake in February 2023. However, the grant funding for projects under this program requires that foundational activities be undertaken first, and staff do not have a suitable alternative at this time.

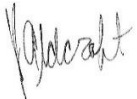
## IMPLICATIONS

Should the grant application be successful, 100% of the costs to develop a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment for the Municipality will be covered by grants, allowing budgeted funds to be reallocated to recommendations identified through this project. Note: This grant program has another intake in February 2023, enabling future grant applications to be submitted as projects are identified.

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council support the submission of a grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for up to \$150,000 under the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation funding stream for the development of a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for the Municipality of North Cowichan and support overall grant management of the project.

Report prepared by:



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Jennifer Aldcroft  
Climate Change Specialist

Report reviewed by:



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David Conway  
Director, Engineering Projects

## Approved to be forwarded to Council:



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Ted Swabey  
Chief Administrative Officer