

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FUND PROJECTS ENDORSEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board endorse the following projects for grant applications to the Canada Community Building Fund - Strategic Priorities Fund, and support overall grant management activities:

Capital Infrastructure Stream

- Errington Firehall #2 Replacement
- Departure Bay Pump Station Upgrade
- Hammond Bay Forcemain Twinning Project

Capacity Building Stream

- Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) Asset Management and Infrastructure Planning Project

BACKGROUND

The Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) is one of three funding streams delivered through the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) in British Columbia, formerly known as the Gas Tax Fund.

The SPF is an application-based program that provides funding for strategic investments. This fourth intake of the SPF program will see an investment of up to \$125 million to support infrastructure and capacity building projects in communities across the province and is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The SPF program can contribute up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$7 million.

All local governments outside Metro Vancouver are eligible to apply. According to the UBCM guidelines, local governments are also able to submit applications on behalf of an Ultimate Recipient:

“A local government may sponsor an application for an Ultimate Recipient. This will count as one of that local government’s application and the local government will be responsible for ensuring that all obligations under the CCBF SPF program are met – including program and project reporting”.

An Ultimate Recipient is defined as – a local government; a non-municipal entity, including for-profit, nongovernmental and not-for-profit organizations located and operating in British Columbia; and BC Transit. This will count as one of that local government’s applications.

Applications intakes are under two streams:

- **Capital Infrastructure** – This stream provides grant funding specifically targeted for the capital costs of local government infrastructure projects that are large in scale, regional in impact, or innovative and support the national objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.
- **Capacity Building** – This stream provides grant funding for local government capacity building projects, including asset management, long term infrastructure planning and integrated community sustainability planning that support national objectives and are large, regional in impact or innovative.

A Regional District may submit up to four applications, with a maximum of three under the Capital Infrastructure stream and one under the Capacity Building stream. The deadline for applications is September 12, 2025.

Staff utilized the following approaches in their analysis to develop their recommendations:

- A multi criteria evaluation tool (included in Attachment 1) intended to prioritize projects identified by RDN staff; and
- Identifying whether a project supports the objectives within the SPF – large in scale, regional in impact and innovative - and CCBF's national objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.

Grant applications and funding levels for the following projects are recommended by staff:

#	Service	Project	Stream	Total Capital Costs	SPF Funding Request	Weighted Criteria Score	CCBF National Objective			SPF Program Criteria		
							Productivity and Economic Growth	Cleaner Environment	Strong Cities and Communities	Large in Scale	Regional in Impact	Innovation
1	Fire Protection - Errington	Errington Firehall #2 Replacement	Capital Infrastructure	7,196,000	7,000,000	63		Y	Y		Y	Y
2	Wastewater - Southern Community	Departure Bay Pump Station Upgrade	Capital Infrastructure	38,285,307	7,000,000	75	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Wastewater - Southern Community	Hammond Bay Forcemain Twinning Project	Capital Infrastructure	44,907,467	7,000,000	75	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN)	Asset Management and Infrastructure Planning Project	Capacity Building	7,000,000	7,000,000	64		Y	Y		Y	Y

Should the Board endorse SFN's project application and the application is successful and funding is secured, an agreement between the RDN and SFN will be undertaken to define obligations.

The table below lists four other Capital Infrastructure Projects that were analysed:

#	Service	Project	Stream	Total Capital Costs	SPF Funding Request	Weighted Criteria Score	CCBF National Objective			SPF Program Criteria		
							Productivity and Economic Growth	Cleaner Environment	Strong Cities and Communities	Large in Scale	Regional in Impact	Innovation
5	Wastewater - Nanoose	NBPCC - Nanoose Forcemain Replacement (Phase 2)	Capital Infrastructure	5,562,283	-	62		Y	Y			
6	Water - Nanoose Peninsula	Nanoose Water Service Area New Reservoir	Capital Infrastructure	2,251,299	-	39			Y			
7	Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN)	Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) Cultural and Arts Centre Project	Capital Infrastructure	6,999,200	-	56	Y		Y	Y		Y
8	Oceanside Place	Roof Remediation Oceanside Place	Capital Infrastructure	1,500,000	-	44			Y		Y	

The Board may recommend alternative projects and/or funding levels that it deems appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In the case of successful grant application(s), use of reserves and/or borrowing requirements will decrease which could result in a reduction in the tax requisition.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Planning and Managing for Growth - Understand and develop an inter-connected framework of strategies and plans to manage growth to support complete communities, including planning, transportation, infrastructure, and fiscal sustainability.

REVIEWED BY:

- T. Moore, Chief Financial Officer
- C. Crabtree, General Manager, Corporate and Transportation Services
- L. Grant, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

1. Multi Criteria Evaluation Tool