
TO: Electoral Area Services Committee **MEETING:** November 20, 2018
FROM: Catherine Morrison
 Manager, Emergency Services **FILE:** 7130-03-01 EVN
SUBJECT: Red Cross Community Partnerships BC Fires 2018 – Community Gathering Grant Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Red Cross Community Partnerships BC Fires 2018 – Community Gathering Grant report be received for information.

SUMMARY

The Red Cross Community Partnerships Program offers financial assistance to communities affected by the 2018 fires who want to host a community-wide event to support recovery. The Community Gathering Grants are an opportunity to bring people together to reduce feelings of isolation, to celebrate resiliency and promote healing and recovery, and to share important information about available recovery services and supports.

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) applied for a Community Gathering Grant in support of the communities impacted by the Nanaimo Lakes Wildfire. The grant application was approved and a Community Gathering Event was held on October 24, 2018 at the Cranberry Community Hall at 1555 Morden Rd. The Community Gathering Event was open to the entire community but advertising focused on Electoral Areas A & C which were directly impacted by the Nanaimo Lakes Wildfire.

BACKGROUND

The Community Gathering Event intended to support neighbours to reach out and build resiliency within their neighbourhoods, to debrief, discuss and acknowledge what happened and to familiarize the community with available recovery services and preparedness information.

While the turnout was smaller than anticipated, the event generated some great feedback and information sharing. The RDN registered four new ESS volunteers and engaged attendees on the importance of household and neighbourhood preparedness.

The Red Cross grant funds supported advertising, refreshments, emergency preparedness kit building activities, kit demos and the purchase of household and NEPP guidebooks. In addition, RDN staff, Extension and Cranberry Fire Department members, RCMP, BC Wildfire, TimberWest and the Electoral Area C Director, Maureen Young were present to stimulate discussion, provide information, share stories and answer questions. ESS and NEPP volunteers

also partook in the event and were available to discuss the importance of volunteers in Emergency Support Services.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Red Cross Community Partnerships BC fires 2018 – Community Gathering Grant report be received for information.
2. That alternative direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the Community Gathering Event as it was grant funded through the Red Cross Community Partnerships BC Fires 2018 program.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Relationships- We Will Focus On Improved Two-Way Communication Within The Regional District And With Our Communities

Focus On Relationships- We Recognize All Volunteers As An Essential Component Of Service Delivery. We Will Support The Recruitment And Retention Of Volunteers



Catherine Morrison
cmorrison@rdn.bc.ca
October 26, 2018

Reviewed by:

- D. Pearce, Director, Transportation and Emergency Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer