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**TO:** Oceanside Services Committee      **MEETING:** May 16, 2019  
**FROM:** Sharon Horsburgh  
Sustainability Coordinator      **FILE:** 6750-01  
**Subject:** NCED Northern Community Economic Development – Spring 2019 Proposals

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Northern Community Economic Development Select Committee consider seven proposals for funding through the Spring 2019 intake.

## **SUMMARY**

Seven applications for Northern Community Economic Development (NCED) funding have been received for consideration at the NCED Select Committee Meeting scheduled for May 16, 2019:

**Attachment 1: Town of Qualicum Beach** – Airport Parking & Signage (\$50,000)

**Attachment 2: Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce** – Parksville Visitor Centre EV Charging Station (\$10,000)

**Attachment 3: Community Futures Central Island – LEAP** – Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (\$10,000)

**Attachment 4: Oceanside Community Arts Council** – McMillan Arts Centre Digital Art Gallery (\$25,524)

**Attachment 5: Coombs Farmers' Institute** – CFI 2019 Here we Grow and Apple Pressing Event (\$4,560)

**Attachment 6: Qualicum Beach Multi-Use Cinema Society** – Feasibility Study for a Qualicum Beach Community Cinema (\$15,000)

**Attachment 7: ECHO Players** – Motorized Curtain Project (\$4,250)

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board approved the 2019 Final Budget and funds totalling \$50,000 are available for disbursement from the NCED Program. For the NCED Spring intake, seven applications have been received for a total request of \$119,334. Staff have assessed the applications in accordance with the grant evaluation criteria.

NCED grants are provided to support local initiatives that enhance economic development in Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H', the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach.

## BACKGROUND

The NCED Program (the Program) has been offered to organizations and local governments in the Ocean Side area since 2012. In 2018, the NCED Select Committee reviewed the NCED service and agreed to continue the grant program with minor revisions to the Program Guide. Since inception, participation and awareness in the Program has grown, the range of activities are increasing. Historically, the grants typically assist with tourism, arts and culture, recreation activities and increasing business opportunities in the high tech sector.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The RDN Board has approved \$50,000 for the NCED program to support economic development opportunities in accordance with the service priorities outlined above. The total funds requested from the Spring 2019 applications is \$119,334.

Table 1 lists the applicants, projects, total amounts requested for the Spring 2018 intake. In accordance with the Committee's direction at the February 15, 2018 meeting, the applications along with an assessment of the proposal is included in Attachments 1 through 7.

**Table 1: NCED - Project Proposals (Spring 2018)**

Proponent	Project Name	Amount Requested
Town of Qualicum Beach	Airport Parking & Signage	\$50,000
Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce	Parksville Visitor Centre EV Charging Station	\$10,000
Community Futures Central Island	LEAP – Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program	\$10,000
Oceanside Community Arts Council	McMillan Arts Centre Digital Art Gallery	\$25,524
Coombs Farmers' Institute	CFI 2019 Here we Grow and Apple Pressing Event	\$4,560
Qualicum Beach Multi-Use Cinema Society	Feasibility Study for a Qualicum Beach Community Cinema	\$15,000
ECHO Players	Motorized Curtain Project	\$4,250
<b>Total Spring 2019 Funding Requested</b>		<b>\$119,334</b>

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The Program supports the Board's 2016 – 2020 as well as the Draft Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022. The current strategic priority is to 'Focus On Economic Health' – We Will Support Our Traditional Industries: Forestry, Tourism, Manufacturing, Fishing, Knowledge Based and Technology Based Industries. The goal of the NCED Program is to build community based economic development and enhance local economic resilience.

The Draft Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022 goal is to set the table to enable diverse economic opportunities across the region. One of the key actions in the plan is to review the resources required in order to coordinate business development and retention throughout the region.

The Program is consistent with the Board's strategic priority as it focuses on relationships by enhancing collaboration and cooperation between municipalities and electoral areas, and uses a collaborative regional model for providing services.



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Report Writer's Name  
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May 6, 2019

Reviewed by:

- K. Fowler, Manager, Long Range Planning, Energy & Sustainability
- G. Garbutt, General Manager, Strategic & Community Development
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Town of Qualicum Beach – \$50,000  
Attachment 2: Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce \$10,000  
Attachment 3: Community Futures Central Island – \$10,000  
Attachment 4: Oceanside Community Arts Council – \$25,524  
Attachment 5: Coombs Farmers' Institute –\$4,560  
Attachment 6: Qualicum Beach Multi-Use Cinema Society - \$15,000  
Attachment 7: ECHO Players – Motorized Curtain Project \$4,250