



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-120

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 25, 2021

Subject: Grant Request – Chetwynd Public Library

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant in the amount of \$4,000, payable from Electoral Area E Fair Share, to be issued to the Chetwynd Public Library in support of the Elders and seniors Christmas Pen Pals program in 2021.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Chetwynd Public Library (CPL) is once again celebrating Elders and seniors during the holiday season. In collaboration with local schools, Sauteau First Nations, and West Moberly First Nations, the CPL is launching a pen pal project that involves linking students to Elders and seniors through the writing of Christmas cards and/or letters. This project fosters and supports education and cultural awareness for the students, Elders and seniors throughout the community. A total of 350 cards and/or letters will be distributed to Elders or seniors residing in the communities of Sauteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, and Chetwynd, and each will contain a gift card resourced locally.

This initiative was started in 2020 to replace the Annual Young @ Heart Community Christmas Dinner that was cancelled due to the public restrictions implemented by the Province as a result of COVID-19. This year, CPL has decided to continue this program in support of the health and well-being of local Elders and seniors as they are not able to host an annual dinner as a result of the ongoing health pandemic. In prior years, the Regional District has provided the following grants to CPL for similar initiatives:

- 2019 \$3,000 Annual Seniors Community Christmas Dinner
- 2020 \$3,000 Elders and Seniors Christmas Pen Pals project

CPL operates as a public library association governed by a CPL Board of Directors which consists of a representative from the PRRD, a liaison from the District of Chetwynd, eight elected community volunteers and a Library Director. The Board is responsible for providing library services and programs in Chetwynd and operates under the authority of the *Library Act of BC*.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from Chetwynd Public Library and provide no grant funding to assist with the Elders and Seniors Christmas Pen Pals program in 2021.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

- As of October 31, 2021 the balance after remaining commitments for Area E Fair Share was \$2,757,404.00

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The applicant will be notified in writing of the Rural Budgets Administration Committee’s decision, and if grant funding is approved, will be asked to recognize the Regional District for its contribution.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Grant Application – Chetwynd Public Library